# PRIVATE EYE

No. 1195
12 October –
25 Oct.v 2007
£1.50


# ELECTION: YES IT'S NO!

## BROWN TROUSER SPECIAL

Enjoy Responsibly

www.drinkaware.co.uk

## Peter Gago
### Chief Winemaker

Peter Gago is part of a short, but illustrious line of Penfolds chief winemakers. From Mary Penfold to Max Schubert and through to Peter Gago – an unbroken chain of over 160 years. Respectful of the Penfolds style, Peter believes it's his job to both maintain and contest, to continue to do what works and always has, but also to take risks and strive towards excellence in new and creative ways. It's good to be wrong, he says, because that means you're doing something you've never done before – and learning another lesson on the journey toward truly outstanding wine.

To the visionaries.
To those who do things for love not money.

Penfolds

BIN 389

# PRIVATE EYE CHRISTMAS CARDS

# FREE
## TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS

TWELVE BRAND NEW EXCLUSIVE DESIGNS from Private Eye cartoonists

New for this year **12 designs!**

Limited stock so please order early to avoid disappointment

**12 cards per pack price £8**
**2 packs for only £14** inc p&p

**TO ORDER CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Call **01795 414 870** (QUOTE CARDS1195)
**Overseas +44 (0)1795 414 870**

Log on to **www.eyexmas.co.uk**

**TO ORDER SUBSCRIPTION WITH FREE CARDS**

Private Eye – THE PERFECT GIFT that lasts all year round and it's ONLY £28 for 26 ISSUES

Call **01795 414 870** (QUOTE CODE N1195)
**Overseas +44 (0)1795 414 870**

Log on to **www.eyesubs.co.uk**

**Or use this form and send with your payment to: Private Eye, PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA**

**ORDER CHRISTMAS CARDS** SOURCE CODE: CARDS1195

Please send me ☐ 1 set of cards at £8 ☐ 2 sets or more at £7 per set.
No of sets ____ Total enclosed ____

**YOUR DETAILS**

Mrs/Miss/Ms/Mr Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Daytime tel.
(In case we have a query with the order)

Email

☐ Yes, I would like to receive news of other products and services from Private Eye that may be of interest to me.

**PAYMENT METHOD FOR CARDS AND/OR SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**BY CARD**

☐ Please charge my Mastercard / Visa / Switch (issue no ____ )

Card number

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐ Switch only

Valid from ☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

Signature Date

**OR BY CHEQUE**

☐ I enclose a cheque for £ ____ payable to **PRIVATE EYE**

**ORDER SUBSCRIPTION WITH FREE CHRISTMAS CARDS** SOURCE CODE: N1195

☐ UK £28 ☐ Europe £34 ☐ Rest of world £38

**YOUR DETAILS (AND WHERE WE WILL SEND THE CHRISTMAS CARDS)**

Mrs/Miss/Ms/Mr Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Daytime tel.
(In case we have a query with the order)

Email

☐ Yes, I would like to receive news of other products and services from Private Eye that may be of interest to me.

☐ **PLEASE SEND PRIVATE EYE FOR ONE YEAR TO:**

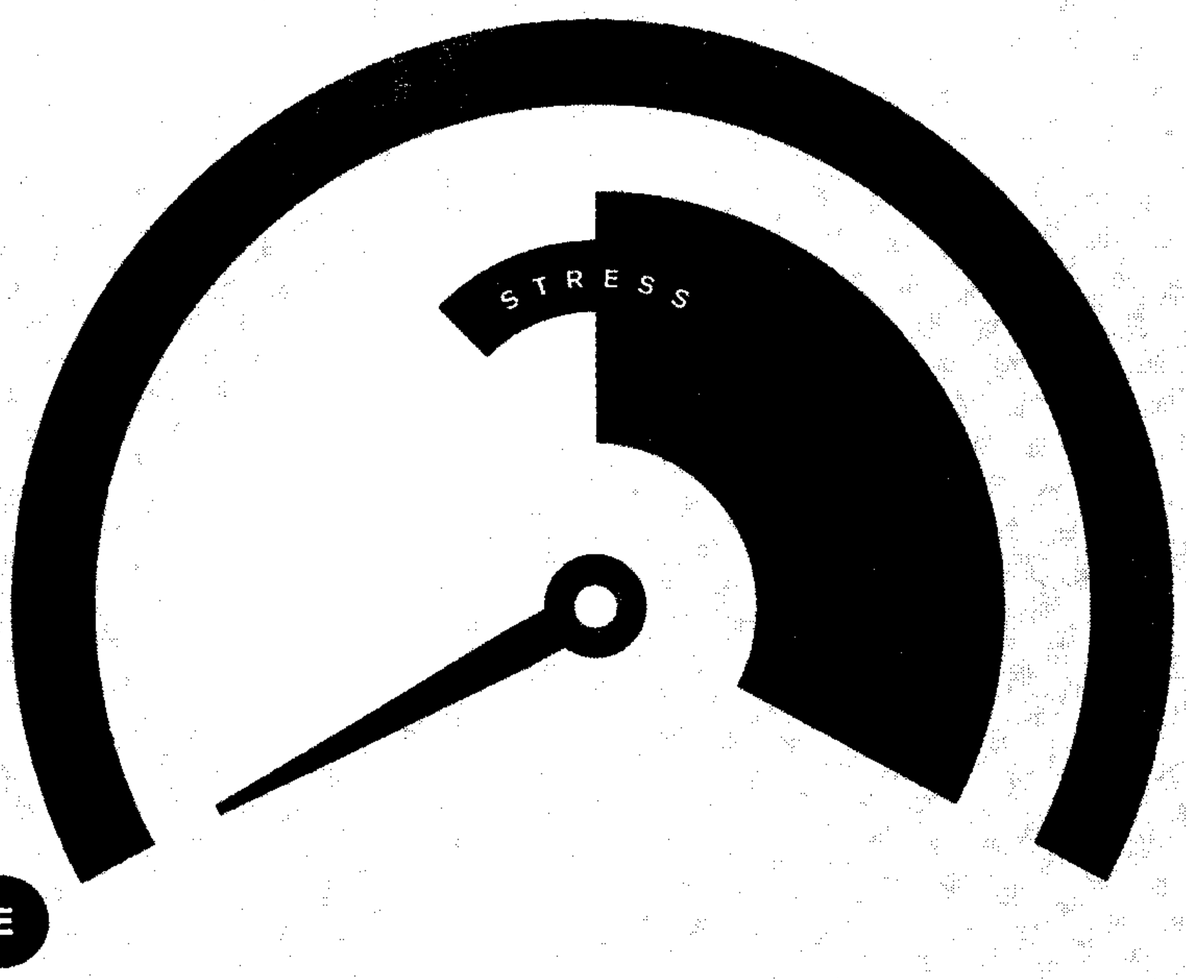
Mrs/Miss/Ms/Mr Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Starting with: ☐ The next available issue
☐ The first issue in 2007 (11 January)

**PLEASE ALLOW 14 DAYS FOR DELIVERY**
**OFFER CLOSES 3 DECEMBER 2007 AND APPLIES TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY**

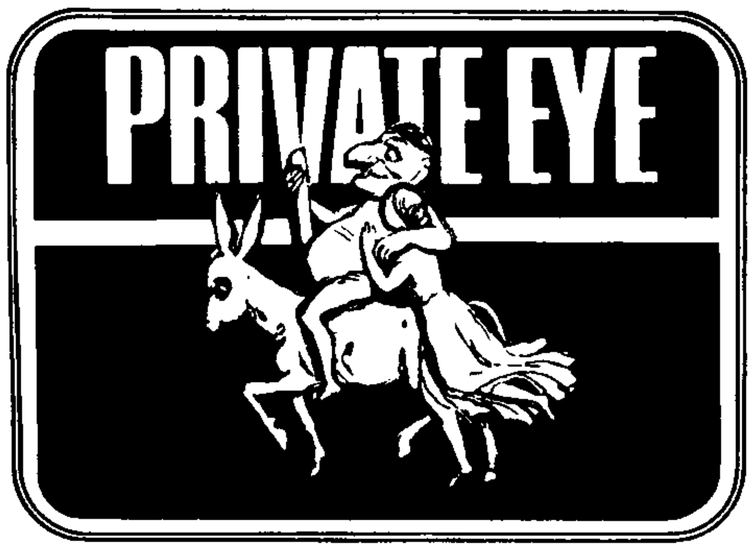



Life has its pressures. Luckily it also has its havens of tranquillity. Settle into the beautifully designed interior of the E-Class and watch stress disappear in the rear view mirror.

Visit www.mercedes-benz.co.uk/stress, call 0808 156 5638 quoting stress80 or text stress80 to 64500.

Mercedes-Benz

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES (MPG/LITRES PER 100KM) FOR THE NEW GENERATION E-CLASS SALOON RANGE: URBAN 34.4-12.7/8.2-22.3, EXTRA URBAN 57.6-28.8/4.9-9.8, COMBINED 46.3-19.8/6.1-14.3. CO2 EMISSIONS: 160-341 G/KM. MODEL FEATURED IS AN E200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE SALOON WITH OPTIONAL PARKTRONIC AT £605.00. TOTAL PRICE: £31,007.00 ON THE ROAD (PRICE INCLUDES VAT, DELIVERY, 12 MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENCE, NUMBER PLATES, FIRST REGISTRATION FEE AND A FULL TANK OF FUEL). PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.




## Poll position


- **Princess Diana & the prophet Mohamed** 7
- **Hic! Gavel Basher's back from conference** 8
- **Trying our patients: M.D. on Lord Darzi** 12
- **Lockerbie, the bomb timer and the CIA** 28
- **It's torture sucking up to the Saudis** 29
- **Olympics: Coe gets the Abbey habit** 30

**"ALTHOUGH Gordon Brown's spinners are hinting at an early general election, there is one big obstacle," we reported in July (*Eye* 1188). "The Dirty Digger won't stand for it." And so it proved. Brown's retreat last weekend may be largely attributable to the Tory bounce in the opinion polls, but the clunking fist of Murdoch shouldn't be overlooked.**

The Digger made his views plain in an interview shortly before Blair's departure: "We would like to see at least a year to 18 months stand-off between Gordon Brown and David Cameron." The message was later repeated almost verbatim in a *Times* editorial.

Yet by the end of this summer some young Brownites had the temerity to think of ignoring it. Retaliation was swift and massive: on the opening day of Labour's conference the *Sun* filled its first seven pages with an attack on the PM for not calling a euro-referendum. The bombardment continued through the week, with a dismissve review of his speech ("not his finest hour") and an editorial warning that "the polls may be going his way but Gordon Brown should not be so cocky". In other words: you call a snap election and we'll make you regret it, matey.

Contrast that with the friendly tone of this Monday's *Sun*. "Tories who popped open the champagne yesterday should stuff the cork back in the bottle," advised political editor George Pascoe-Watson. "Gordon Brown is a Goliath – but plucky David hasn't come close to killing him. Brown is a political giant who'll use tomorrow's budget and spending review to get back on track."

Gordon is now working assiduously to get back on track with News International, too. Last week he entertained the Digger himself at Chequers and also found time for a pilgrimage to East London, where Murdoch's right-hand man Les Hinton was hosting a 40th-birthday party for his fun-loving *inamorata* Kath Raymond – who, by happy coincidence, was recently recruited by Brown as an adviser on crime and social affairs.

Gordon's postponement of the election has another benefit for Kath: she now has plenty of time to fulfil her ambition of finding a safe Labour seat and becoming an MP.

**CHANCELLOR Alistair Darling wasted no time rubbishing George Osborne's claim that he could pay for Tory tax cuts with a £25,000 levy on "non-domiciled" taxpayers that would raise £3.5bn. More like £650m, insisted Darling.**

But how could he know? He could only arrive at a figure if he estimated the non-doms' foreign income; and as Ed Balls, the then Treasury minister, told Lib Dem shadow chancellor Vincent Cable in parliament this April, such estimates aren't made.

Really? This was always baloney, as *Private Eye* pointed out in April (see 1183). We had been asking for the figures for months under the Freedom of Information Act only to be refused them – though the Treasury did admit they existed.

Osborne took up this point with the Treasury last week. But permanent secretary Nicholas McPherson insisted Balls' answer "remains correct: there is no complete data set for the unremitted foreign income of non-domicilies (sic)". As McPherson knows, that's not what Cable asked. He asked for any estimates made, and the *Eye* was told by officials (who presumably forgot to check against the porkies being told in parliament) that, contrary to Balls' denial, they *did* exist.

Not that that was much help. Disclosing any details would, said the Treasury, deny the government "the opportunity to present its policies in a coherent fashion". HM Revenue and Customs refused too, fearing a "weakening of government decision making". But last week "impartial" civil servants had no such qualms when Darling ordered them for party political reasons to spit out some numbers to demolish the Tories' claims before the evening news bulletins – a not-so-subtle change of approach on the tax break that until then had dared not speak its name.

**GORDON BROWN's courtship of *Daily Telegraph* editor Will Lewis has been relentless – and seems to have worked. Brown, no doubt posing as the "force for change", encouraged his new best friend Will to jettison the *Torygraph*'s team of lobby hacks. "I don't trust any of them, they're either Tories or Blairites," he explained.**

It is no doubt mere coincidence that in the past few weeks there has been a complete clear out of the *Telegraph* political stable, with veteran political editor George Jones leaving the paper, his deputy Toby Helm (brother-in-law of Blair aide Jonathan Powell) being found another job, number three reporter Graeme Wilson fleeing to the *Sun* and Brendan Carlin finding political asylum at the *Mail on Sunday*.

**MORE on how the "listening" Brown government is using "thought leadership" techniques to secure a ringing endorsement for its controversial policies on everything from health to nuclear energy with the help of so-called citizen juries.**

Those invited to attend the day-long indoctrinations (*"open-minded discussion groups, surely? Ed.*), organised by the aptly named Opinion Leader, a subsidiary of Lord Bell's Chime PR group, were paid £75 in brown envelopes for their votes.

According to a government health spokesman, the payments are "standard research practice, whether for short focus or longer deliberative events" and could not possibly be confused with buying influence. After all, the discussions are so carefully orchestrated with each group allocated a "minder" to direct and sum up, the pro-government outcomes are already in the bag.

● *Nobbling the jury: Ratbiter, p9*

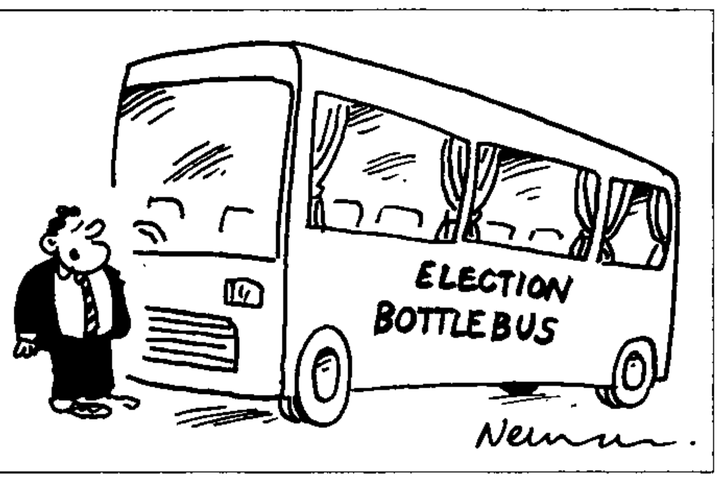
**O·B·N**

***Order of the (Gordon) Brown Nose***

Change will not be cosmetic, not just swapping a dapper smiler for an old sobersides. There will come a man of conviction, of brain, intensity and seriousness; a strategist, not a mere tactician; a long-termist, not a quick-fixer; a man on a moral mission.

**POLLY TOYNBEE on Gordon Brown, *Guardian***

*Submitted by Diane Jenkins*





**EDITORIAL**
**6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN.**
**Tel: 020 7437 4017. Fax: 020 7437 0705.**
**Email: strobes@private-eye.co.uk**
**Website: www.private-eye.co.uk**

**PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS/SALES**
PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA.
**Subscription enquiries: 01795 414 871**
Overseas: +44 (0) 1795 414 870 Fax: 01795 414 555.
**Web:** www.subsonline.co.uk
**Email:** private-eye@servicehelpline.co.uk

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
£28 per annum. Europe and Eire £34. Airmail (rest of world) £38.
Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Mastercard/Visa.

**ADVERTISING**
Ten Alps Publishing, 9 Savoy Street, London WC2E 7HR.
**Email:** private-eye@tenalpspublishing.com
**Display:** 020 7878 2366 **Classified:** 020 7240 9129

**Published** by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. **Printed** by BGP Ltd, Bicester OX6 7QZ. **Distributed** by P.E. Distributions, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. 020 7437 4017.

ABC


## ELECTION FEVER GRIPS NATION

## *READERS!*

●Are you coming to terms with the fact that there isn't going to be an election? Are you disappointed, angry, suicidal? Ring the *Private Eye* No Election Hotline (089487 3200000) to talk through the issues with a trained counsellor. (Calls charged at £94 a minute peak rate).

# NEWS

**AT THE heart of the new £1.6bn mega-development in London, just north of Shepherds Bush, there is to be a new railway station on the West London line. It is a key part of the plan to ensure good public access to the 300 shops, 14-screen cinema and all the rest of this huge scheme. All jolly Green.**

The station is virtually complete but surprisingly there is no announcement about when it will open. Although it should have been handed over to operators Silverlink at the end of August, the handover has now been postponed indefinitely. That's because one of the platforms is 18 inches shorter than the minimum specified by the Railway Inspectorate. This might not sound much, but with the numbers expected to use the station, it is enough to pose a genuine safety risk.

It might sound simple to resolve, too, with a bit of extra concrete, but unfortunately there is a huge wall in the way and the estimated cost is a staggering £7m. The issue is now the subject of a major dispute between all the players – developer Westfield, Transport for London and the safety inspectors. There seems no easy resolution, but someone is going to have to cough up £7m for what will be the most expensive 18 inches of railway platform in the world.

**THE bright sparks in charge of St George's Hospital Healthcare Trust in south London plan to introduce hi-tech hand scanners to clock staff in and out of work. However, making all staff touch the same surface might not be the best way to help control things like MRSA.**

Hospital managers say the new system will reduce bureaucracy and ensure staff are paid overtime, but many workers believe it is simply a ploy to oblige doctors to clock off and not stay beyond their rota-ed hours to care for patients who need them.

A similar clocking-in system for junior doctors (but using cards rather than hand scanners) was introduced by Northumbria Healthcare Trust last year but has already been scrapped. The system will cost St George's, which is already £30m in debt, £600,000.

The BMA has written to the trust warning about cross-infection, as has staff union Unison which noted: "A system which requires tens and even hundreds of persons to place their hands in succession on the same plate must, even if hand washing and other infection control precautions were perfectly observed unhurriedly by everyone, increase the risk of cross-infection."

● *Lord Darzi's Balls: M.D., p12*

*"But Professor, it's a great new example of animals using tools"*

# Street Of Shame

**UZBEK billionaire Alisher Usmanov may be no friend of free speech, having used his sabre-toothed lawyers at Schilling & Co to close down the website run by former British ambassador Craig Murray – and other blogs run by Boris Johnson and Tim Ireland. But he still has plenty of friends in Fleet Street, whose coverage of his efforts to buy Arsenal FC is charmingly incurious about his financial background.**

As *Mirror* hack Matt Scott reported from Moscow last week, Usmanov had opportunities to buy Spurs or Liverpool last year, but turned then down "because he felt he would be turning his back on Arsenal. A source close to the businessman explained: 'Alisher loves Arsenal'." Most other national papers had similarly gushing coverage from their football correspondents, who also seemed to be in the Russian capital.

What were they doing there? Tim Ireland, one of the silenced bloggers, has taken his revenge by revealing that no fewer than nine British hacks were flown out to Moscow on Usmanov's private Gulfstream jet and put up at the five-star Kempinski hotel, where they were wined, dined and spoon-fed propaganda by Usmanov and his spin-doctors. Yet only one of them – Charlie Sale of the *Daily Mail* – saw fit to mention in his reports that the trip was sponsored by the controversial tycoon they were writing about. Several noted that Usmanov had launched a "charm offensive" – but omitted to add that the charm is reserved for sports hacks, while the blogosphere gets the offensive.

**TWO WEEKS ago the *Guardian* cleared its centre-spread for a "special report" by Felicity Lawrence on "the use of agency workers to drive down pay and conditions".**

It was a hard-hitting account of "the replacement of traditional jobs with cheaper, casualised, and often migrant labour", who enjoy none of the rights of permanent staff. HarperCollins Books, part of the Murdoch empire, was named and shamed for its use of agency workers.

Strangely, in this lengthy two-page article, no mention was made of the *Guardian*'s own HotDesk, an internal agency set-up. Those employed on HotDesk, some of whom have been working for the *Grauniad* for two years or more, have no staff rights, no paid holidays, no sick pay, no union representation – and if they are there for more than nine months in succession they have to stop working for at least six weeks so the paper isn't legally obliged to offer them staff contracts.

Meanwhile, last week was Diversity Week at the *Grauniad*, which meant that staff were invited to hear luminaries such as Polly Toynbee address them on subjects such as the work-life balance. Wisely, Polly wasn't tactless enough to mention that the *Guardian* is now demanding that hacks work longer hours and extra days for no extra money, and warning of compulsory redundancies. No doubt this will do wonders for their work-life balance.

**● We misspelled the word misspelled twice, as mispelled, in the Corrections and clarifications column on September 26, page 30.**

*Grauniad*

**IT WAS pot and kettle time at the *Guardian* last week, where a notably hostile leader criticised the Beeb for spending £75m buying the Lonely Planet travel guides.**

The high-minded *Grauniad* argued that such a deal was outside the remit of a public-service broadcaster. But the sub-text was: leave the takeovers to us. For, after years of posing as not-for-profit public servants, *Grauniad* bosses have got a taste for red-blooded capitalism after selling a stake in *Auto Trader* to private equity firm Apax earlier this year.

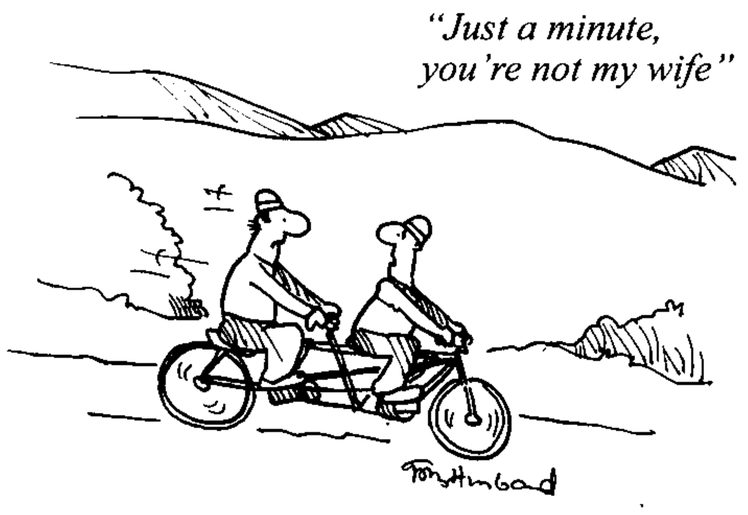
"Profit-seeking" is now the mantra of *Guardian* and *Observer* executives, who have devised plans for "24/7 working" across the two papers, with "efficiency savings" and job cuts. Meanwhile, with a "war-chest" of £675m from the Apax deal, *Grauniad* bosses are also having a thrilling time seeking "takeover targets" with private-equity partners. No doubt City-sized Christmas bonuses will follow. What *would* C P Scott make of it?

**THE *Sunday Times* had another of its legendary scoops last month. "The Pentagon has drawn up plans for massive airstrikes against 1,200 targets in Iran, designed to annihilate the Iranians' military capability in three days, according to a national security expert," wrote Washington correspondent Sarah Baxter on 2 September.**

Her expert source was Alexis Debat, director of terrorism and national security at the Nixon Center – until ten days later, that is, when he resigned after Barack Obama, the Democrat presidential contender, complained that an interview with him in a French magazine, *Politique Internationale*, never took place.

*Après ça*, as they say, *le déluge*. It transpired that many other interviews under Debat's name in the magazine – with Alan Greenspan, Bill Gates, Michael Bloomberg, Bill Clinton – were equally bogus. But even before this the *Sunday Times* should have been wary. In 2005 the UN protested that an "interview" with Kofi Annan was a fake. And ABC News fired him as a consultant this June after discovering his claim to have a PhD from the Sorbonne was false.

ABC is now conducting an inquiry, but there will be no such self-flagellation at the *Sunday Times*. In a follow-up two weeks ago, Baxter insisted her piece was "corroborated by Pentagon sources", and Debat "has long been held in high regard in Washington government circles. He continued to be consulted by senior Pentagon officials after the *Sunday Times*'s article on Iran appeared." So that's all right then.



## WIKIPEDIA WHISPERS

THE following bizarre advertisement appeared in American newspapers a few months ago:

"The Viscount Monckton of Brenchley presents his compliments to Vice-President Albert Gore and by these presents challenges the said former Vice-President to a head-to-head, internationally-televised debate upon the question 'That our effect on climate is not dangerous', to be held in the Library of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History at a date of the Vice-President's choosing. Forasmuch as it is His Lordship who now flings down the gauntlet to the Vice-President, it shall be the Vice-President's prerogative and right to choose his weapons by specifying the form of the Great Debate. May the Truth win!"

Alas, not everyone accepts the Truth as defined by Viscount Monckton, aka Christopher Monckton, who was a bowler-hatted policy adviser to Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s and now earns a living compiling Sudoku puzzle-books when not campaigning to expose the "myth" of global warming. Last November, *Grauniad* columnist George Monbiot debunked a long *Sunday Telegraph* article by Monckton about climate change. Monckton huffed and puffed about libel but eventually settled for a right of reply.

So Monbiot was somewhat surprised a few weeks ago to notice a sentence in Monckton's Wikipedia entry claiming that the *Grauniad* had paid him £50,000 in libel damages for Monbiot's piece. "Was it you," he wrote to the Viscount, "who made the claim that the *Guardian* has paid you £50,000 in damages as a result of an article I wrote?"

"No," Monckton emailed back. "And I am puzzled – the Wikipedia page shows no reference to this."

That, Monbiot explained, was because Wikipedia editors had now removed the misinformation. But the mystery remained: "You say you did not make the claim on Wikipedia that the *Guardian* has paid you £50,000 in damages as a result of an article I wrote. Could you then explain how this claim originated from a message sent from your email address?"

*Whoops!* Monckton began flailing desperately. "We're on a system with several tens of thousands of people on it," he babbled. "I'm doing my best to get the whole page taken down so that there's no more nonsense."

Monbiot was more puzzled than ever. "What system are you referring to?" he inquired. "Who else shares your email address?" By way of reply Monckton contacted Monbiot's bosses at the *Guardian*, demanding that they tell the columnist to stop asking questions as it was making him gravely ill. Characteristically, he also threatened to sue for libel.

Unable to understand why Monckton's health permitted him to send misleading answers to questions but not send a straight answer, Monbiot tried one more time. "I am not asking much of you in terms of effort," he wrote to Monckton on 26 September. "I am sure that an explanation of one or two sentences would clear the matter up. But unless you are able to provide one, I feel I have no choice but to conclude that you fabricated a claim on your Wikipedia page. I thought I should give you one last chance to produce a convincing refutation of this hypothesis."

Answer came there none.

EVERYONE knows, or ought to know, that nothing in Wikipedia should be trusted without independent verification. But for hacks in a hurry it has now become both the first and the last port of call, as they proved *en masse* last week when Ronnie Hazlehurst died.

Within hours, the *Scotsman* had posted an online obituary which listed all his sitcom theme tunes and then added that "in 2000, aged 72, he composed 'Reach' for teeny-pop group S Club 7, which hit number two in the charts". The same detail appeared in instant obits for the *Guardian*, *Independent*, *Manchester Evening News*, *The Stage* and BBC News. The *Times* found it "surprising" that he had written a teenybop hit at the age of 72, but still reported it as fact.

Surprising indeed, since the actual writers of the S Club 7 hit were Cathy Dennis and Andrew Todd. A couple of weeks before Hazlehurst's death, however, someone mischievously amended his Wikipedia entry to give him the credit for the song – and Fleet Street's finest duly took it as gospel.

## DIANA INQUEST

**"I AM the one who knows everything," Mohamed Fayed says of the death of Princess Diana.**

So here in his own words, and those of his still active spokesman Michael Cole, are answers to some of the "unanswered questions" surrounding her death which Lord Justice Scott Baker and a jury are considering.

### Was Diana pregnant?

Not according to Mohamed Fayed. In September 1997 Cole wrote to the *Daily Telegraph* on Fayed's behalf complaining that the paper's coverage of the tragedy was "spoiled by references to pregnancy and cocaine, for which scurrilous allegations not a scrap of evidence has emerged", as well as complaining to the Press Complaints Commission that "it was alleged… that the princess was pregnant at the time of her death. No evidence has emerged to support these damaging allegations… nasty rumours which have no factual basis."

Speaking exclusively to the *Sunday Mirror* on 9 November 1997, Fayed revealed that he still had "a number of vital questions that still need answers". Among them was this: "Who gave French newspapers the false tip-off that Diana was six weeks pregnant?" And in February 1998 he told the *Mirror*: "I doubt that Diana was pregnant. The only two people who can really tell us are the coroner over here and the hospital in France and neither of them have confirmed this information, which makes me think that it's not true." (In 2003 he remembered that the Princess herself had actually told him personally that she was pregnant in a phone call on the night of her death.)

### Was the ring Dodi had bought for Diana just before their deaths an engagement ring?

Not according to Mohamed Fayed. In a press conference held at Harrods on 5 September 1997, mouthpiece Cole told reporters: "Mr Al Fayed has authorised me to give you a few details… What that ring meant we shall probably never know and if the planet lasts for another thousand years, I'm quite sure that people will continue to speculate about its significance." (His boss brought this deadline forward 999 years when in 1998 he announced that it was definitely an engagement ring, and the couple had both confirmed this after they telephoned him to say they were getting married.)

**"THIS newspaper was among the first to urge a tougher code of conduct for television and the press," announced a lofty *Daily Mail*, laying a stake to the moral high-ground – and welcoming a Press Complaints Commission move to tighten up self-regulation – in September 1997, a month after Princess Diana's death.**

So which paper had to pull a shot of Prince William and Kate Middleton taken by paparazzo Alessandro Copetti from its front page last Saturday after Clarence House reminded it that the "aggressive pursuit… [of the couple] by photographers on motorcycles, in vehicles and on foot" breached that very tightening-up of the PCC code? The *Daily Mail.*

No such qualms at the *Sun,* which splashed the pictures – purchased via pap-agency Matrix – across a double-page spread on 6 October. This was, of course, the same paper whose publisher announced in January that it had "imposed a ban on all News International publications printing paparazzi photos of Kate Middleton".

**THE *Observer* may be proud of its reputation as a serious newspaper – but not quite proud enough to live up to it, apparently.**

Two weeks ago, as the rebellion by dissident monks in Burma erupted, the *Obs* devoted a single token paragraph to the story, from the AP news agency, buried on page 36.

Many readers contacted the paper to complain. "Your derisory treatment of Burma last week was indicative of a 'news lite' approach," wrote one Charles Rose from Birmingham. "If I want to buy a comic, there are plenty of alternatives."

Curiously, however, the *Observer* has so far been unable to find space for this or similar protests in its letters page.

**A FORLORN young woman was seen sadly stalking the perimeter of Blackpool's Winter Gardens last week, unable to get in.**

Anna Fazackerley, formerly a hack on the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, had gone to Blackpool in her new role as director of Agora, a think-tank which ponders the purpose of universities. Alas, having failed to secure a visitor's pass, she went home early.

Agora aims to "ask the difficult questions that other groups are unable to tackle". Anna herself is left brooding on the difficult question of why she was cold-shouldered by the conference apparatchiks who refused her plea for credentials.

Could it be that they recognised her as someone last seen on the front page of the *News of the Screws* bidding a fond farewell to Boris Johnson after one of their afternoon assignations – and decided to spare the blushes of their London mayoral candidate?

**Could the girl in this picture be Madeleine in Morocco?**

A photograph of a small girl with striking facial similarities to Madeleine McCann in the clutches of a group of Moroccans is being studied by Interpol detectives ...

*Daily Mail website*

## NUMBER CRUNCHING

**3** Members of public in "overflow" marquee at royal courts of justice on second day of Princess Diana inquest

**70** Capacity of "overflow" courtroom at royal courts of justice which was full on most days during Hutton inquiry

*"He's a really radical Green"*

**DEFENCE Secretary Des Browne used his Bournemouth conference speech to announce £80m spending on military accommodation, casting a flattering light on one of the most neglected corners of public service.**

In sharp contrast, but much to Browne's relief, a report from Parliament's defence select committee two weeks before presented a much more sobering picture but passed almost unnoticed.

"The MoD needs to do more if servicemen and women are not to be left in sub-standard accommodation for many years to come," the MPs announced. As the *Eye* has reported before, bringing the 40 percent of family accommodation that is currently sub-standard up to scratch will take decades on current spending plans. Yet the new £80m doesn't address this at all. Instead it will be added to a pot for new single living accommodation known as "SLAM".

Nor does the money represent *additional* defence spending. It's largely a windfall from the failed ruse of a previous defence secretary, Browne's predecessor John Reid, who when he went to the Home Office last year thought it would be a good idea to turn the empty Connaught barracks near Dover into a prison camp as demanded by a campaign by the *Sun* newspaper. Local people had other ideas, the plan was quickly reversed and the land sold for development.

Family accommodation, meanwhile, remains beholden to Annington Homes, the subsidiary of a Japanese investment bank to which it was sold 11 years ago. When surplus properties are sold by Annington, the MoD keeps less than 25 percent of the profits and even then doesn't recycle the money into improvements. Worse still, the defence committee was particularly concerned that the MoD might be putting more money into upgrading houses just before Annington sells them (at great profit to investors) than it does when military personnel have to use them.

The MPs reserved their severest criticism for the maintenance the MoD outsourced to MODern Housing Solutions (a consortium led by Carillion) two years ago. This, they concluded, was "not working well" and was a "serious failure of policy… exacerbated by an alarming lack of recognition at senior levels that these problems are more than minor difficulties".

None of this stopped Browne from milking his £80m announcement for all the publicity he could, posing among the SLAM beds at Bovington near Bournemouth. But asked by the *Eye* when he had visited any of the pisspoor family accommodation up and down the country, the MoD could only say that unspecified "defence ministers" have made "numerous visits to a range of accommodation sites across the country".

**HOW refreshing to hear the new Chancellor Alistair Darling at Labour's Bournemouth conference calling for "far greater openness to prevent risky investments being hidden off-balance sheet" – which some might think would mean around £30bn in private finance initiatives will soon show up on the government's books.**

Not so fast. Even as Darling was making his plea, his officials were busy trying to bury as many liabilities as they could.

Earlier this year, the Treasury's financial reporting advisory board, FRAB, dropped its longstanding demand for off-balance sheet PFI deals to be brought back on the books because the accounting that kept them off under Gordon's tenure was wrong. FRAB relented when the Treasury agreed to adopt new international accountancy standards that would bring them on-balance sheet in future. This spared Brown's blushes but left Darling a headache, as the additional debt would soon take borrowing above the "sustainable investment" limit (40 percent of GDP) imposed by Brown.

Now, *The Business* magazine has discovered, Treasury officials are trying to keep PFI off-balance sheet as long as possible by arguing over whether the new rules should really apply to the government. They have already ensured the imminent comprehensive spending review and pre-budget report will use the more flattering rules. So much for ending the scourge of off-balance sheet finance.

**LONDON Olympic organisers are reported to have made a key appointment in selecting one Paul Williamson as head of ticketing.**

Williamson, currently group sales director at Ticketmaster, was, according to the *Grauniad*, chosen for his impeccable links with government, having made "several appearances before select committees".

Williamson's experience of the ways of government is, in fact, much more extensive. He is married to Jo "good day to get out anything we want to bury" Moore, the former Department of Transport special adviser whose spinning ways on 11 September 2001 gained her such notoriety. After being accused of a similar stunt following the death of Princess Margaret five months later, Moore resigned and retrained as a teacher.

## CALLED TO ORDURE

**FEW will be sorrier that the party conference season has ended than the vintners and liver quacks of Brighton, Bournemouth and Blackpool. What a three-week piss-up! The resorts may have cleaned up their beaches but that did not stop our political elite from getting thoroughly polluted.**

Take the spectacle of Churchill's grandson, the Tory MP Nicholas Soames, booming at one late-night Blackpool reception: "Did you hear that [*Sun* editor] Rebekah Wade is bonking [racehorse trainer] Charlie Brooks? I'm FUCKING jealous!" Etonian Soames did not explain which one he was jealous of, though – Rebekah or Charlie?

At Bournemouth's Royal Bath hotel during the Labour week, former Paymaster-General Geoffrey Robinson invited 1,200 of his closest friends to the *New Statesman*'s party (six hours of free champagne). The guests, who included several cabinet ministers, could not be bothered to do their host the normal courtesy of listening to his "few words" of welcome. They brayed and boozed throughout his slurred oration, some wit raising a laugh by shouting: "Who IS this has-been?".

A boggle-eyed Robinson pleaded for order and was roundly ignored. When the mag's editor John Kampfner made the next-but-one speech he started with the word "Oi!" to try to quell the throng. He realised it was a hopeless task and wisely spoke for barely more than 15 seconds.

At the Lib Dems' gathering in Brighton the party's would-be leader Chris Huhne plunged into a group of thirsty political hacks at the Grand Hotel bar. Huhne seemed unduly keen to encourage discussion of a *Daily Mail* article which had just accused his rival Nick Clegg of fixing some cosy handover with current leader Sir Ming Campbell. "Bloody good story," murmured Huhne, who in public, of course, always professes undying loyalty to the cause and statesmanlike dismay at "gossip" about the succession.

The Labour conference was the most Stalinist of the three, the few ministers who spoke from the podium being restricted to just seven minutes. Behind the arras Gordon Brown's henchmen were delighted when Foreign Secretary David Miliband made a speech of unparalleled uselessness ("the world is a scary place", he wittered). Journalists who lampooned Miliband in their newspapers were vigorously complimented the next day by No 10 staff. Why? Because Brown and his cronies are determined to wreck any chance the Blairite Miliband has of succeeding the PM. They want Ed Balls to get the job instead. That should ensure Labour a decade in opposition if nothing else!

The most pathetic figure at Bournemouth was not Miliband or his swivel-eyed special adviser Sarah Schaefer (she marched up to *Sun* hack Graeme Wilson and subjected him to a Teutonic blast of halitosis for daring to criticise Miliband). That award went to Tory defector Quentin Davies MP. Oil-haired Davies may have been buoyed by the absurd rumour that he will soon be made British ambassador in Paris, but as he toured the conference centre's cafes Labour activists turned their backs on him. Ancient leftie Walter Wolfgang, who is rather deaf, was nearby. "THERE'S THAT WANKER QUENTIN DAVIES!" said Walter's neighbour, shouting into the old boy's ear so he (and everybody else) could hear.

By comparison the hacks were well behaved for once. Brown fan Will Lewis, editor of the *Telegraph* (soon-to-be-renamed the *Daily Labourgraph*) was highly visible at both Labour and Tory bashes and spent a lot of time with Rupert Murdoch's friend Irwin "Alka" Stelzer.

It was left to legendary freelance Peter Oborne to look distinctly last nightish as he made plain his displeasure with the *Telegraph*'s grovelling to Labour by marching up to the paper's new political editor Andrew Porter (a golf chum of Lewis's) and ripping him apart over an interview he had done with Ed Balls. "I have to tell you," opined the ill-shaven, bedraggled Oborne in front of several onlookers, "that I thought it one of the most pathetic pieces I have ever read."

In response, a shrivelling Porter muttered: "Maybe we could discuss this in private." But by then Oborne was heading for the exit in search of his B&B for a morale-boosting breakfast.

*'Gavel Basher'*

## THE HEIR TO BLAIR

**CONSERVATIVE MP Andrew Pelling was suspended from the party last night following his arrest on suspicion of assaulting his wife.**

**A Tory spokesman said the whip had been withdrawn from the Croydon Central MP**

*Daily Mail*

## NOBBLING THE JURY

**READERS of the last *Eye* who heard about the wedges of dosh Gordon Brown is passing to Deborah Mattinson, his private pollster, to run citizen juries, may have concluded that he has found a new way to waste taxpayers' money. Brown's declaration at a jury on gun crime in Bristol that he was abandoning the black arts of the Blair era and embracing "a new kind of politics" did nothing to dispel the delusion.**

In fact citizen juries are as old as "new" Labour, and a growing number of critics have developed a specialised language to describe covert – and sometimes not so covert – spinning. While the government talks of "participative decision making" giving ordinary members of the public the chance to have a say in politics, the sceptics talk of "participative ventriloquism" giving ordinary members of the public the chance say whatever politicians want them to say. While Mattinson and her kind call themselves neutral "facilitators", the sceptics call them "facipulators" who manipulate jurors to reach a desired conclusion.

The daddy of pointless surveys was the now forgotten "waste summit" of 2001 called by Margaret Beckett who herself eventually became surplus to requirements. It was a mass consultation of "stakeholders" rather than a jury, and everyone present agreed that more recycling would be a jolly good idea. Richard Wilson, the director of Involve, a campaign group set up to empower citizens, said that unfortunately the practicalities of cutting back on waste were not discussed. When councils introduced rolling fortnightly rubbish collections they were flabbergasted when the public didn't thank them for saving the planet but complained instead of the dangers of rat infestation.

Many other studies have followed this gormless pattern. Did Brown expect the Bristol citizen jury on gun crime to say it wanted more of it? The Health Secretary Alan Johnson is asking an NHS jury: "What actions would you like to see to tackle the spread of infections in hospitals?" Does he expect any answer other than "extra cleaners would be handy"?

But Dr Tom Wakeford of Newcastle University points out that citizen juries can do more than state the bleeding obvious. To governments coping with apathy and cynicism, juries have a precious air of authority. They invoke due process and Magna Carta. If they bless controversial projects, governments can claim precious legitimacy.

In 2003 the Food Standards Agency called a jury on the then controversial plans to introduce GM foods. Opponents of the new technology protested from the outset that the question – "Should GM foods be available to buy in the UK?" – was loaded against them. They were not arguing for the banning of GM food from the supermarket shelves, but against the planting of GM crops in Britain until the possibilities that they could contaminate other plants had been examined.

The jury duly found GM crops not guilty as charged and a delighted FSA press office declared: "Citizens' Jury says GM food should be available to buy in the UK." Dr Sue Mayer, the director of Genewatch, gave evidence to the hearings and was more surprised than she should have been that the FSA somehow forgot to mention that the jurors also went on to warn that "more time is needed to understand the long-term environmental implications of GM crops before farmers start to grow them in the UK".

Near identical complaints have been heard this year about a mass consultation of 2,000 people on nuclear power. The government argued that nuclear power was the best way to limit global warming – and it had a point. But, said Greenpeace and others, instead of presenting the arguments of both sides fairly, it moved the goal posts. In a formal complaint to the Marketing Research Standards Board, Greenpeace cites one juror who says that: "In the videos alternative viewpoints had doom-ridden music in the background. The government's view was then given against calm, relaxing music. I feel I have been mugged."

Opinion Leader Research ran the GM food and nuclear power consultations. Deborah Mattinson is its chief executive. Gordon Brown is her friend. Get used to "facipulation". It's the next big idea.

*'Ratbiter'*

## VIDEO NASTIES

**CHILDREN's social services in Staffordshire are to tackle the use of forcible strip-searching at Werrington Young Offenders Institution (YOI) after prison inspectors were "appalled" by a video showing a child being pinned to the floor and having his clothing cut away while he screamed and pleaded that he was willing to comply with the search.**

It is thought to be the first time local social services have ever become involved in protecting young people behind the doors of a YOI and follows a Prisons Inspectorate report last week which prompted a child protection referral from the Howard League for Penal Reform. Social services have only investigated historic abuses in institutions in the past.

"I have a responsibility to make sure that children within our boundaries are as safe as they can be and it is in that context that I will be discussing matters with the governor of Werrington," wrote Sally Rees, deputy corporate director for vulnerable children, in a reply to the Howard League.

The report of the unannounced inspection of Werrington YOI, near Stoke, was highly critical of the use of routine strip-searching, including two cases in which force was used. Describing a video recording of one search, the report says: "Later, when the officer said that the team were going to remove his boxers, the young man said he would do it himself. He was told that he could have done so if he had complied and had stood up, to which he again replied 'I will comply. I'll stand up.' However the search continued under restraint.

"At no point during the incident did the duty governor or supervisor check on the welfare of the young person, who was held on the floor for around eight minutes, while his clothes were cut off... We were unable to find any authorisation for this extreme procedure to take place."

The report also exposed other "serious shortfalls" in safety, weak anti-bullying arrangements and one landing being used as an unofficial segregation unit without the proper governance in place. Chief inspector of prisons Anne Owers described the video as "excessive and unacceptable".

**ALAS, Derek Twigg MP was not kidding when he observed that "charities are an essential part of the support for our armed forces and veterans" at the launch of a Big Brew-Up fundraising initiative by the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association.**

Well might the defence minister with responsibility for veterans encourage people to give their support "by buying a SSAFA cup of tea wherever they are". As the Afghan war rumbles on, possibly for decades, charities have been providing the equipment and personnel for medical and welfare services for which the government won't stump up. One charity, Help for Heroes, is currently raising the £5m to £8m needed for a physiotherapy pool at the Headley Court military hospital.

Even better, under the rules that apply to all charities the government slices off 15 percent in VAT, allowing patriotic types to help our wounded boys and make a donation to the Treasury at the same time. Anyone fancy a cuppa?

**THE well-documented problems at the Rural Payments Agency (see *Eyes passim ad nauseam*), isn't the only IT fiasco hitting the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs.**

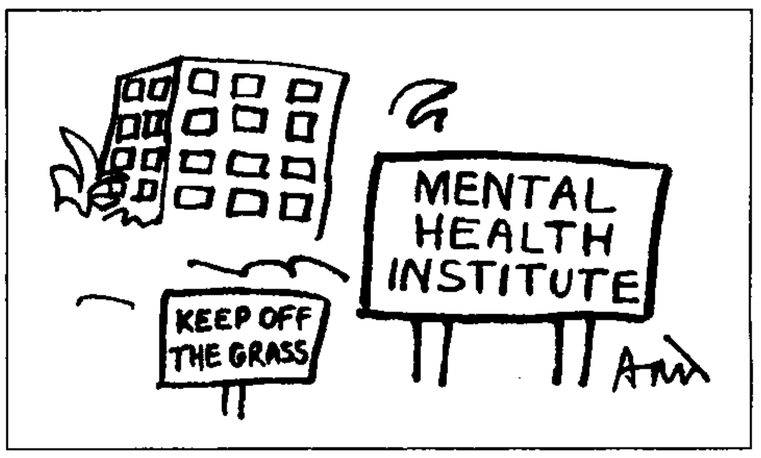
In July 2004 IBM took over the department's IT, and with it 330 staff, under a contract to provide "strategic IT and business transformation services". The deal should have cost no more than Defra's then £85m a year in-house bill.

"Business transformation", however, is yet another consultancy wheeze; and the firms that flog it invariably conclude that your business needs to be transformed by, er, paying them even more.

And lo it came to pass for Defra. By 2006/07 the £40m a year had turned into £147m "reflecting increased demand for IBM's services", according to information elicited in Parliament by the Lib Dem environment spokesman, Chris Huhne.

Three years ago Defra's IT boss David Myers promised "a true strategic partnership with IBM that will bring immense benefits to our customers and staff". Cue hollow laughs from the department's "customers" (farmers) and the staff who were shunted into the company. Once again the only "immense benefits" turn out to be made by the big IT consultants

*'Backbiter'*




## TUC NEWS

**THE cases of two senior Amicus officials, Cathie Willis and Jimmy Warne, who were suspended in September 2005 for allegedly leaking embarrassing material about Les Bayliss, a close buddy of the union's general-secretary Derek Simpson (*Eyes* 1143 & 1184), have been settled out-of-court.**

The settlements will cost Amicus more than £500,000 – the trade union movement's most expensive payout ever. They fly in the face of a decision made by the union's annual conference in May 2000, when a motion was passed instructing the national executive "not to make any secret payments to employees of the union upon termination of their employment".

But the game was up just two days into a two-week employment tribunal hearing, when Amicus's own lawyers realised the union didn't have a leg to stand on.

The settlement at least helped Simpson avoid the embarrassment of becoming the first trade union boss to be found guilty of sacking trade union employees for trade union activity!

*'Blackleg'*

## NUMBER CRUNCHING

**1** Number of grammar schools in Britain where parents have tried to challenge selective status in past decade

**Number 1** Priority for government to simplify system by which this is done now that it has suddenly noticed that grammar schools embarrass David Cameron

# FTVE

**Robin Hood (BBC1)**
**The Tudors (BBC2)**

**BOTH the government and the opposition pay a lot of spotty Oxbridge graduates to monitor news programmes for political bias. But, instead of freeze-framing *Newsnight* and *Panorama*, they should probably be watching peak-time drama because, in recent years, the costume romps have become a hot-bed of political comment.**

For example, **Robin Hood,** though officially a children's tea-time show, can make the plays of Bertolt Brecht look apolitical by comparison. And, predictably, its ideological zeal is directed not at redistribution of wealth – the point of the Robin Hood legend – but at that favourite middle-class parlour game: finding parallels for Iraq.

Much of the first series was spent comparing King Richard's mission to Jerusalem with Blair and Bush's invasion of Iraq, with Robin (Jonas Armstrong) as a political opponent of the war, patron saint of the not-in-my-name movement. Keith Allen's Sheriff of Nottingham, grimly smirking as he has people tortured, is also pretty obviously Dick Cheney. Adult viewers frequently wondered if "Dominic Minghella", the credited scriptwriter, was actually a pseudonym for the writing team of Tony Benn and George Galloway.

In the second series that started last week, this anti-war metaphor has been greatly played down, either because the BBC's editorial monitors got wise to what was going on or because the scriptwriters realised how smug and tedious this stuff would soon get even for that section of the BBC1 audience watching in Islington with a Not in My Name sticker on the window.

There are still occasional references to "King Richard marching on to Jerusalem", but it was soon clear that the hero's politics were in transition.

As global warming is currently on the verge of replacing Iraq as a fashionable television cause, the audience waited in alarm for Robin's first reference to how suddenly unseasonal the weather was in Sherwood Forest or the "manure footprint" of his horses. But, luckily, the new ideological stamp turns out to be a sort of vague Cameroonian defence of the people against the state. Robin refers at one point to the fact that he represents "people – like me – all over England who will stand up for justice!"

The reduction in the political content frees us to concentrate on the drama, which may not be to the series' advantage. Second time around, it's even clearer what a rip-off of *Doctor Who* it is, with Maid Marian as the time-archer's assistant and Allen's Sheriff a version of the Master, right down to his beard and sneer.

But, with that period serial having dropped back a bit in the anti-war march on Number 10, **The Tudors** seems to have taken its place. This is supposed to be yet another drama about Henry VIII, but we're barely 30 minutes in before Sir Thomas More is admonishing the monarch with the words: "Harry, instead of spending ruinous amounts of money going to war, you should spend it on the welfare of your people!"

The problem with this parallel, though, is that while More (Jeremy Northam) works well enough as Robin Cook / Clare Short and Derry Irvine has already told us that he's Cardinal Wolsey (Sam Neill), the Iraq parallel collapses because Henry (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) really won't cut it as Blair. Apart from the fact that Blair was desperate to become a Catholic, while Harry's problem was the opposite, not even Blair's biggest detractors, nor even the recently published faction by Robert Harris, *The Ghost*, have suggested that he was in the habit of shagging the comely young wives of his courtiers. So what you get is a drama about the Tudors which occasionally grinds to a halt so that a character can make an irrelevant speech about how ghastly this awful war is.

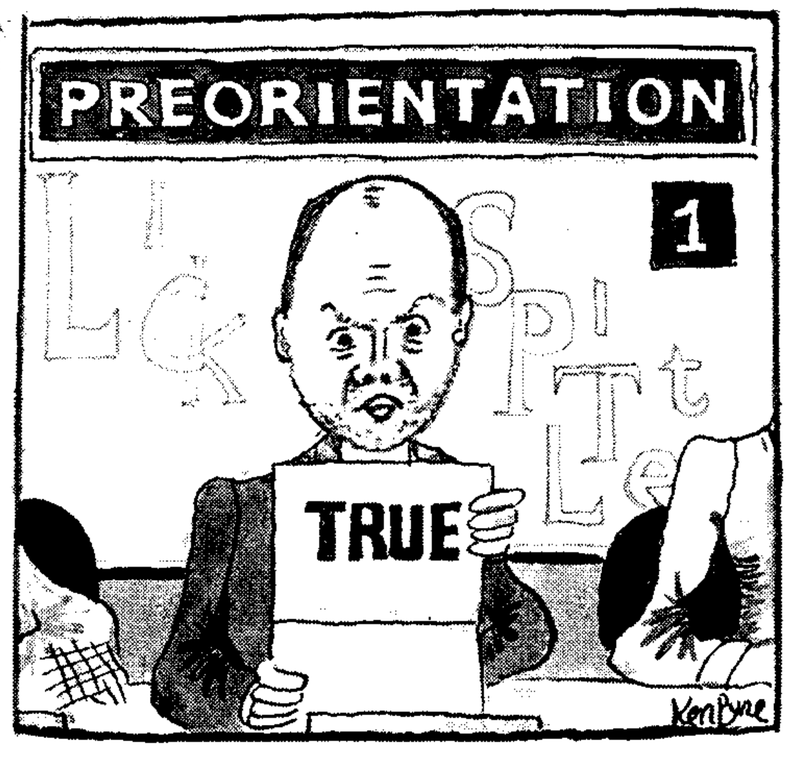
As for the rest, the show betrays its origins as an international co-production aimed at overseas territories through place-captions a UK audience simply doesn't need, including "Whitehall Palace, London" and "Paris, France." The action jumps between two textures: naked, rutting flesh and scheming cardinal scarlet. Masses sung by boy sopranos soar in the background of both.

The dialogue either opts for those anachronisms which can be passed off as political topicality – "I can't wait for this summit" – or is ludicrously expository: a woman is toasted within her immediate family as "Ann Boleyn" purely so that the viewer can be nudge-nudged about who she is.

The continuity announcer promised us "The Tudors as they've never been seen before", but the scenario pretty much follows all biographies and dramatisations of the last 50 years or so in showing King Harry not as the raddled beer-barrel of the later Holbein portraits but a handsome and virile young shagger, unable to eat a pomegranate without making it look like cunnilingus. And the scenes between the king and More are so familiar that you keep thinking you've accidentally switched over to *A Man For All Seasons* on a movie re-run channel.

The subject-matter of *The Tudors*, like that of *Robin Hood*, may be historical. Neither series, though, seems likely to trouble for long the historians of television.

*'Remote Controller'*




# GMTV SHOCK

## MEDIA NEWS

**"NEVER mind Burma, never mind the general election, never mind blue tongue disease: there's only one question on people's lips – did the McCanns do it?"**

*– A Sky News trail for its continuing saturation coverage of Madeleine McCann's disappearance*

**"I AM pleased that the Wyatt inquiry concludes that there was never any intention on the part of anyone at RDF to defame or misrepresent the Queen in the tape that was prepared for the BBC1 launch," pointed out the production company's chief creative officer Stephen Lambert in his resignation statement last week.**

So what, if we accept Wyatt's slightly Hutton-esque conclusion, *was* Lambert's intention when he stitched together footage of the Queen "in a cavalier fashion" which suggested something which he knew had not happened?

The footage was not intended for the channel's autumn season press launch, but merely for "a promotional tape… to provide three co-investor companies with a taste of the material being gathered and to show it to a fourth potential investor… at MIP, the television marketing convention held in Cannes in April 2007."

In other words, just a bit of straightforward financial fraud, attempting to persuade a company to part with its cash on a false prospectus. It wasn't the viewers that were meant to be conned – so nothing to worry about, then!

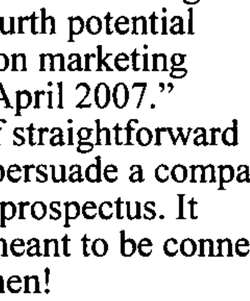
**MINUTES after Peter Fincham's resignation as BBC1 controller – on a matter of trust and accuracy – the BBC's online news carried "media reaction" to the momentous news.**

These included stinging comment from "Andrew Pearce, *Daily Telegraph* editor". Er, nearly right. It's actually Andrew Pierce. And he's an assistant editor of the *Torygraph* (and a notorious Beeb basher). But well tried, lads!

## DUMB BRITAIN

*The Weakest Link, BBC2*

**Anne Robinson**: In the Bible, which city, along with Gomorrah, was destroyed by God because of its wickedness?



**Contestant**: Nazareth.

**AR**: Which Joseph founded a famous chain of teashops, the first one opening in London in 1894?

**Contestant (Hugo)**: Goebbels.

*TFM 96.6, Cleveland*

**Gary Phillipsons**: What was the profession of Louis VIII?

**Caller**: Er, I don't know. Was he a doctor?

*TalkSPORT*

**Mike Parry**: How many r's are there in "irreversible"?

**Caller**: Twelve.

**"PETER Fincham made a serious blunder over Crowngate and had to go," declared a *Sun* editorial on 6 October.**

"He knew at 5pm on July 11 that footage showing the Queen apparently storming out of a photo session in a rage was not the real deal. But he decided to sleep on it, allowing it to explode on every front page and TV news bulletin."

Curiously the Wyatt report into the incident, published last week, reveals that Fincham was not the only one who knew the "storm-out" was a fiction by 5pm. "Early in the afternoon of July 11th," the report records, "the RDF executive producer was rung by the *Sun* asking for a comment on the 'Queen walking out'; the reporter said he was at that moment showing the DVD to his boss. The RDF executive producer tried to explain 'that's not what happened'."

So what was the *Sun*'s lead story on 12 July? "THRONE A WOBBLER: The Queen threw a wobbler during filming of a documentary when a photographer told her to take off her crown, The Sun can reveal." The flat denial from the programme-makers was not thought worth mentioning in either the front-page splash, the two-page story by hack Colin Robertson, or the paper's editorial column.

Since, as the *Sun* insists, Fincham's boss Jana Bennett's "head would have rolled within hours at any commercial media company" for not being on top of the facts, presumably Robertson and news editor Chris Pharo walked the plank months ago for misleading the *Sun*'s three million readers? Er, no. Pharo has just been promoted to "head of news".

**ON MONDAY last week, BBC political editor Nick Robinson finally explained why his party conference "Newslog" had been free of news or anything else for the previous few days, despite it being the height of the party-conference season.**

"Forgive my blogging silence," he sniffled, "I've been struck low by the annual conference cold." No sooner had the posting been made than remedy suggestions from loyal readers began to appear beneath it.

Those concerned for the bespectacled canapé-chomper's condition needn't have worried, however. Robinson pulled himself together sufficiently to make a showing at the *Daily Telegraph*'s party at the Blackpool Hilton, where casual observers might have mistaken the diseased hack for the very picture of conviviality and rude good health, such was his heroic determination to garner scoops with which to reward his patient readers.

Robinson's steely resolve was further tested as he soldiered bravely on to Lord Strathclyde's "Pink Champagne and Oyster Party" in the Imperial Hotel at midnight. But "Newslog" readers could only imagine what valuable insights he acquired from trusted sources there: by the next morning he was once again seemingly gripped by the malaise and quite unable to tell them.

## HIGH PRINCIPALS

**THE BBC's *Look North* news programme was inundated with emails last week after reporting the ongoing allegations of bullying of academic staff at Leeds Metropolitan University (*Eyes Passim*).**

Almost all agreed that the university, where a recent union survey found more than 100 staff had suffered stress as a result of harassment, is a very unhappy ship.

One email disagreed, saying: "I felt the need to come to the university's defence... I've been working for Leeds Met for three and a half years... the work involved is exciting and the staff are increadibly [sic] supportive, friendly and helpful." *Look North* later discovered that the sender of the email works for... the university's communications department.

## AD NAUSEAM

**QUASHING of an autumn election has warded off the strange spectacle of Saatchi & Saatchi – aka the agency that sold the nation Thatcherism – attempting to gift-wrap "Not Flash" Gordon Brown while its bastard child M&C Saatchi in all likelihood took on sloganeering for the Tories.**

*Eye* 1193 told how Steve Hilton, David Cameron's chief strategist, oversaw the Tories' disastrous 1997 ad campaign while working at M&C Saatchi. It was on his watch that the famed Demon Eyes poster was banned by the Advertising Standards Authority.

Moreover, in 2005 M&C Saatchi fell out spectacularly with the Conservative party when it billed the Tories £2.5m for another failed campaign. And yet it seems the Tories just can't keep away from Hilton's alma mater, where Lord Saatchi, who presided over the 2005 fiasco, is still chairman. Surely it's not "Same Old Tories", as a certain political poster once put it?

**A TV campaign for an airline launches this week that may seem rather familiar.**

Silverjet, the cut-price club class operator, has come up with an almost exact recreation of British Airways' 1989 "Face" spot. It features the same locations, the same soundtrack (the "Flower Duet" from Delibes' *Lakme*) and for good measure they've even drafted in the original director, Hugh Hudson.

Unusually for adland, however, this isn't a shoddy knock-off: it's deliberate. The sting in the tail, such as it is, is that rather than the 600 extras who made up BA's smiling, winking face, here there are just four – the point being that Silverjet offers exclusivity compared to BA's cattle herding.

The ad assumes that every potential Silverjet customer saw and remembers the BA ad from 18 years ago. That's an expensive gamble, but also a telling clue, because this is a classic example of an ad made as much for people in adland as for anyone else. Points are being scored at BA's expense but it's not just Silverjet that is doing the beard-tweaking.

Silverjet's advertising agency is M&C Saatchi. That's the same M&C Saatchi which held the BA account for more than 20 years and, when it was Saatchi & Saatchi, created the "Face" ad in the first place. Then, in late 2005, it lost the account in high dudgeon. So who's really having a go at BA here – its rival Silverjet or piqued top brass at M&C?

**THE "supported by the British Skin Foundation," tag at the end of Garnier's TV ads sounds impressively scientific, but who or what is the BSF?**

The charity funds around £500,000 worth of research into skin conditions a year, a good dollop of which funding comes from its "platinum supporter", er, Garnier.

The BSF describes its validation process as "rigorous" but it is largely a paperwork audit to ensure that safety and ethical standards have been met and that the company's own clinical/user trials demonstrated the benefit and safety of a product. It is used by a number of cosmetics firms, but only Garnier makes such a palaver about it.

The cosy relationship also sees Garnier making claims such as: "According to the British Skin Foundation, up to 80 percent of skin damage from the sun occurs during childhood. For parents' added peace of mind, the British Skin Foundation supports Ambre Solaire's research into protecting the skin in the sun," in its advertising. Ambre Solaire (a Garnier brand) was also the proud sponsor of a BSF bus that trundled around holiday spots this summer offering advice and free samples of, er, Ambre Solaire.

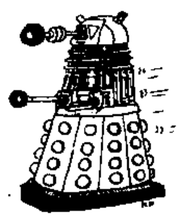
The latest joint stunt from Garnier and the BSF is "Radiance Parties" – described as a "perfect excuse" to treat yourself and raise funds for "those who are not fortunate enough to have healthy skin". To host a party, you just need to send £15, in return for which the BSF will send fundraising ideas, skincare tips and some Garnier product samples, of course. Is this fundraising or marketing?

**WAITROSE adverts might insist that the supermarket has "always supported the toughest breed of all... the British farmer" but parent company John Lewis well and truly pulled the rug from under another group of British workers last month.**

The John Lewis Partnership announced plans to sell the historic Stead McAlpin textile business last month to the newly formed Apex Textiles Ltd. The 200 textile workers at the 172-year-old printing and dyeing factory in Carlisle were all "partners" in the John Lewis Partnership, but they say the sell-off came with no warning or consultation.

The staff will lose the profit-related bonuses and are worried about their pensions, not to mention their jobs, since Apex has no track record and new managing director Jim Kidd has a string of failed textile companies behind him. Indeed, the UK textile market in general is suffering tough times in the face of cheap imports. So much for the purported claim to support suppliers "through good times and in not so good times".

## BIRTSPEAK 2.0

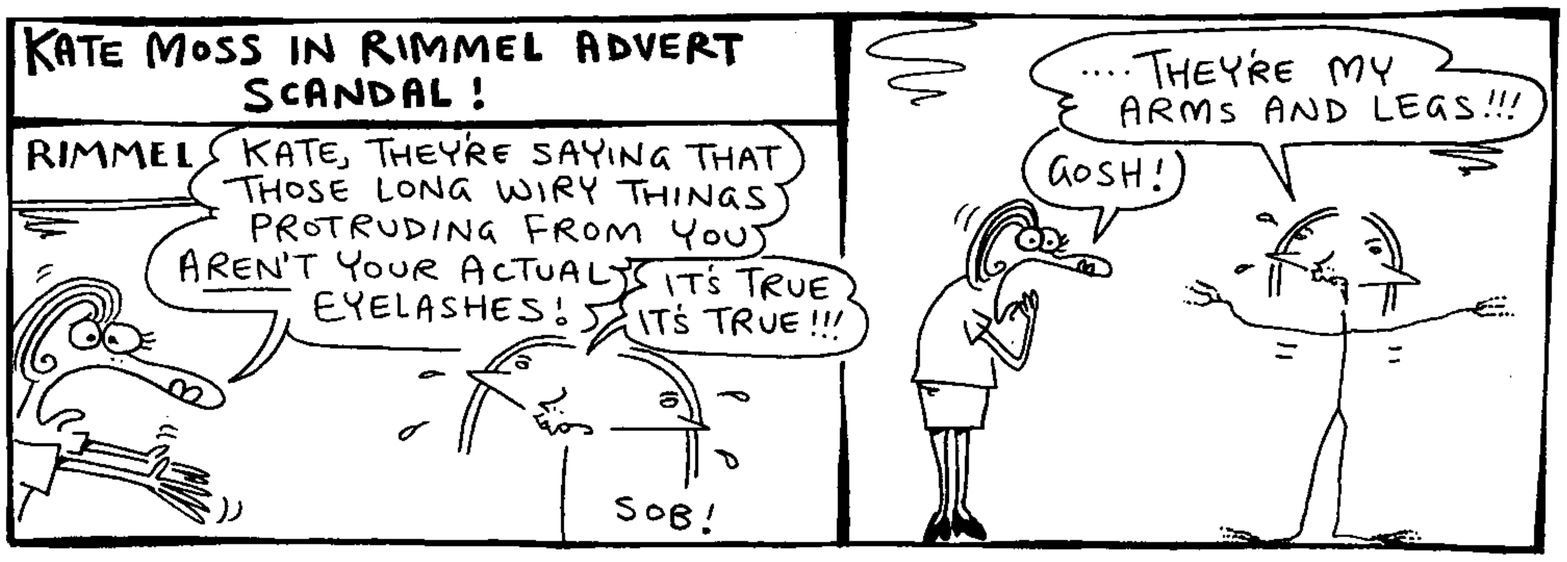


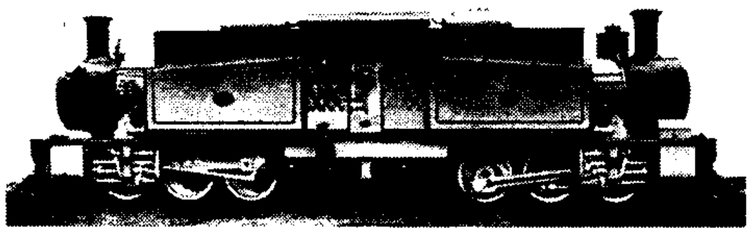
"The Internationalists are the new-age citizens who are populating today's world. They are the decision-drivers, avid travellers, big spenders and conscientious-consumers. They are global influencers, early adopters, and frequent travellers who are committed to global issues and life-long learning. They are BBC World's viewers. The Internationalists are a unique audience group within the international news landscape… Jonathan Howlett, director, advertising sales, BBC Global Channels, says, 'The BBC World audience is so much richer and more diverse in behaviour and attitude than a purely C-suite target audience, as it encompasses the worlds of academia, the public sector, opinion-drivers, global citizens, and professionals who operate outside, as well as inside, the boardroom'."

*– BBC World press release*

## SUPERMODELS

KERBER


KATE MOSS IN RIMMEL ADVERT SCANDAL!
RIMMEL
KATE, THEY'RE SAYING THAT THOSE LONG WIRY THINGS PROTRUDING FROM YOU AREN'T YOUR ACTUAL EYELASHES!
IT'S TRUE IT'S TRUE!!!
SOB!
....THEY'RE MY ARMS AND LEGS!!!
GOSH!



# SIGNAL FAILURES

## Feeling off-peaky

**SINCE rail privatisation umpteen promises to simplify fares have been broken. The latest came at the Labour conference, where Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly pledged to make tickets "simpler and easy to use" so people could be confident of "getting the right ticket at the right price".**

Was she lying – or does she really have no idea what her own officials are doing?

Transport department mandarins are itching to deregulate (ie let train firms scrap) saver tickets, a comforting relic from the public service era. They've backed off for now because of the likely political fallout but say that: "Customers need to be convinced that change is to their benefit."

They also reckon that commuter tickets are too simple and are muddying the peak versus off-peak waters by creating something called "super off-peak" which will mean whatever train bosses want it to mean for revenue purposes.

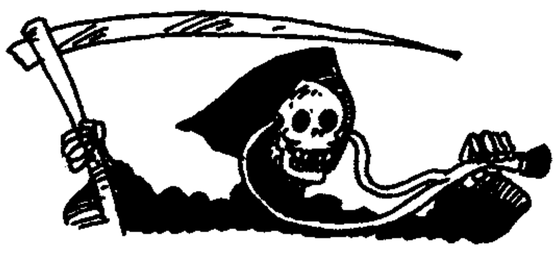
The concept was piloted at Stagecoach's South West Trains (see *Eye* 1190 for SWT's tortuous new off-peak definition). Next up is the new East Midlands franchise, where Stagecoach will complicate fares ostensibly to see if it can persuade people to switch from the busiest trains to earlier or later ones.

Kelly's officials clearly won't frustrate rail bosses' desire to move even further into airline-style pricing, where customers shop around online for fares that fluctuate massively depending on demand. But rail's chief rival is the car, not the plane; and no one goes online to shop around every time they want to make a car journey. Motorists have a clear idea of a car journey's cost, because parking charges are constant and filling stations don't raise prices whenever queues build up. People use cars at their convenience; airline-style rail fares are for travel at the train firm's convenience.

The average train journey in Britain (excluding local railways like the tube) is under 24 miles. People who occasionally shop online to fly hundreds of miles for a holiday or stag party aren't necessarily going to be willing to do the same whenever they need to nip into town. Train firms don't lose out from airline-style fares, which encourage people to make journeys they wouldn't otherwise have made. But if we want the billions of pounds of rail subsidy to cut road congestion, carbon emissions and accidents, trains must offer a convenient alternative to the car for everyday journeys – which implies more regulation of fares to make them simpler.

Kelly's promise will be broken because Labour says the rail industry must collect 80 percent more in fares in 2014 than in 2006-7 – and the eye-watering price rises have to be disguised somehow for political reasons. Mandarins already exploit the messy fares range to understate price rises. In July's rail white paper they said: "On average, the cost to passengers of rail travel has increased by less than 3 percent over the last decade." What they didn't explain was that the book-ahead fares which pull that average down are of lower value, as well as price, because they limit passengers to specific trains. A like-for-like comparison of "fully-flexible" tickets reveals fares have rocketed by 18 percent above inflation in 10 years, or 46 percent for first class. And that was before Labour demanded £4bn a year more from passengers.

*'Dr B Ching'*



# LORD DARZI'S BALLS

**WHO'D BE Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham (FREng, KBE, FMedSci)? When asked by the *Today* programme's John Humphrys why his NHS review would be any different to any of the previous NHS reviews, he said: "Ee ah ah um colleagues."**

He then trotted out the "envy of the world" homily before being reminded that the NHS ranked 17th (out of 29) in the latest league table of European healthcare (behind Latvia). So should the NHS consider some level of charging? "Governments will have to look at that in more clearly." Eh?

No matter. There was still the hard copy of *Our NHS Our Future NHS Next Stage Review Interim Report October 2007* to wade through. I sincerely hope this was rushed out as a cynical piece of electioneering. Otherwise there's no excuse for "we now need to change the way we lead change – effective change needs to be animated by the needs and preferences of patients, empowered to make their decisions count within the NHS with the response to patients' needs and choices being led by clinicians taking account of the best available evidence."

I've never met a surgeon who speaks like that. Has Lord Darzi's brain been replaced with "new" Labour arse gravy? "Patients can feel like a number, rather than a person." Hardly surprising when Choose and Book reduces you to a unique 12 digit PIN along with easy to remember password ("fountain saver", "broccoli spot", "cake counter"). But the most striking claim is that the review "is not about changing the way the NHS is structured". So what is merging specialist services on to fewer sites, merging GPs into "federated polyclinics" and downsizing district general hospitals?

Darzi has joined the party half way through, when so much money has already been wasted on NHS change that he'll have a job convincing the staff of the need for more. He's proposing polyclinics to do much of the work done in district general hospitals, but we've already invested £1.4bn in independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) that were supposed to do the same. ISTCs were encouraged into the market with guaranteed contracts paid above tariff. Last year, they were paid for 50,000 more operations than they carried out. The vast majority of waiting list reductions were carried out in existing NHS hospitals and a huge sum has been wasted on unnecessary competition.

The NHS already has a competitive market under Payment By Results. Or rather activity. Hospitals can only survive by sucking as many patients as possible through their doors. ISTCs couldn't attract the custom, not least because they failed to submit sufficient outcome information to the Healthcare Commission to enable them to be audited for quality and safety.

Polyclinics may well have the expertise to treat patients closer to home, but whether they can stand up to the might of desperate hospitals remains to be seen. To get the support of NHS staff, Darzi doesn't just need to consult them, he needs to publish evidence showing his reforms would work. The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges has performed the most comprehensive review of the reconfiguration plans and agrees that highly specialised services such as major trauma, heart and brain surgery need to be specialised on fewer sites. But it found no evidence to support the centralisation of the non-complex, high volume work done in district general hospitals.

There is, however, evidence that patients feel access to GPs has improved in the last few years, which makes Brown and Darzi's peculiar focus on extending opening hours puzzling. The review smells strongly of hastily assembled populist opinion. Clinical medicine has been reformed in the last 20 years by focusing on the evidence, not the expert. The same needs to happen with NHS reform. Don't change the system until you can prove you've got something better.

*M.D.*

# NHS PLC UPDATE

**YEARS of lobbying by private companies and consultants paid off last week when Health Minister Ivan Lewis announced the 14 firms who will take over commissioning health services from primary care trusts. They are, says Lewis, "organisations that are already known and trusted". Well, half right.**

They include consultants **McKinsey**, which was paid millions by the Department of Health to "create a commissioning market" (*Eye 1152*). Now it can clean up on the market it created. Also in there is **Dr Foster Ltd**, recently conceived through a heavily criticised taxpayer rip-off (*Eyes passim*); and **KPMG**, erstwhile employer of the DoH's "change director" Ruth Carnall and adviser on the department's "commercial strategy".

Private health companies get a decent piece of the action too. Commissioning your healthcare in the near future will be **United Health Europe**, chaired by Blair's old health adviser Simon Stevens, private hospital company **BUPA** and health insurer **AXA**. Conflicts of interest, anybody? They won't be allowed, says the DoH – unless, that is, the "conflict can be effectively managed". So that's all right then.

Meanwhile there are covert plans for another private health company, **Clinicenta** (owned by construction giant **Carillion** and Australian firm **Lodestone**) to set up diagnostic and day surgery units in Edgware Community Hospital. The NHS hospital has been underused since being built in 1997 so Clinicenta is stepping in to exploit the spare capacity, having been named "preferred bidder" last December for the contract to deliver day surgery, rehab and minor treatment to patients from 21 PCTs. As the relatively new taxpayer-funded Edgware facilities require minimum investment, this is a tasty prospect for Clinicenta.

One of Clinicenta's self-proclaimed "partner" organisations, meanwhile, is **Translocation UK Ltd**, which specialises in recruiting health workers from abroad. It has now secured a contract to supply NHS-trained radiographers to, er… NHS hospitals. Is there nothing in the NHS that can't be flogged off?

## ROTTEN BOROUGHS

# NO MORAL COMPASS

THE promising career of Labour councillor Miranda Grell was cut short last month at Waltham Forest magistrates court when she was convicted of making false statements under the Representation of the People Act 1983, *viz.* that while canvassing for local elections last year she had claimed her Lib Dem rival was a paedophile.

The court heard how ambitious Grell, 29, had told voters: "Don't vote for Barry because he is a paedophile" and "Have you heard about him sleeping with Thai boys? His boyfriend is 16, he is dirty."

Grell's smears against Barry Smith helped her win the seat by 28 votes, overturning his 600-plus majority in the Leyton ward. Smith, 56, is openly gay and has lived with his 39-year-old Malaysian partner for 13 years. The couple have since moved away from London after Smith was called a "fucking paedo" and "batty boy" in the street. He told the court he had been spat at and followed by men who said: "We know where you live, kiddie-fucker."

Grell was fined £1,000 with £3,000 costs. She is disqualified from serving as a councillor for three years, but no by-election can be held until her appeal against conviction has been heard. She has also lost her job as an aide to London mayor Ken Livingstone's deputy, Nicky Gavron.

Not everyone has turned their back on Grell, however. Her fellow members of the board of Compass, the "democratic left" pressure group which last month published a po-faced "dossier" claiming that Boris Johnson, Livingstone's Tory rival for the mayoralty, was somewhere to the right of General Pinochet and Ghenghis Khan, are standing by their comrade.

**● FIXED allowances for councillors, introduced by the Labour government, have proved a godsend for the lazy. In the past, a councillor had to drag himself or herself down to the town hall to pocket any dosh, but now they get their money even if they stay in bed.**

**Geoff Lilley, an Independent on Hartlepool borough council, embarrassed the majority Labour group by asking for councillors' attendance figures under the Freedom of Information Act. They showed that half of the council's members failed to attend at least 50 percent of meetings last year – but were still able to claim their annual allowance, which starts at £5,410 and rises according to responsibility.**

**To spare members' blushes in future the council has had a great idea: stop keeping records of councillors' attendances! Deputy mayor Pamela Hargreaves, who holds the "portfolio for performance", told councillors: "I do not agree with focusing on the attendance lists, so the council will not publish them." Brilliant.**

# HANTS A LOT

LAST MONTH Hampshire county council announced that three senior managers were facing disciplinary action for misconduct after a district auditor's report criticised the letting of IT contracts without tender.

The auditor found that £1.2m had been spent on seven consultants to set up a £4.7m call centre. One unnamed consultant, with London-based Commerce Partners, was paid £416,000 on a series of short-term contracts at up to £900 a day. That consultant then hired his juniors from, er, Commerce Partners. Hampshire council's own rules stipulate that any contract worth more than £75,000 should go to tender.

DA Stephen Taylor said it was a clear case of misconduct by the three senior officers, whose "failures cannot be said to be minor infringements". The three, who could face "final written warnings" for their misconduct, are "business improvement and corporate manager" Hugh Langford, IT supremo Jos Creese and "director of property, business and regulatory services", Andrew Smith.

The week after the disciplinary hearings were announced, Hampshire appointed the selfsame Andrew Smith as its new chief executive, starting in January on £199,000 a year. Nice work.

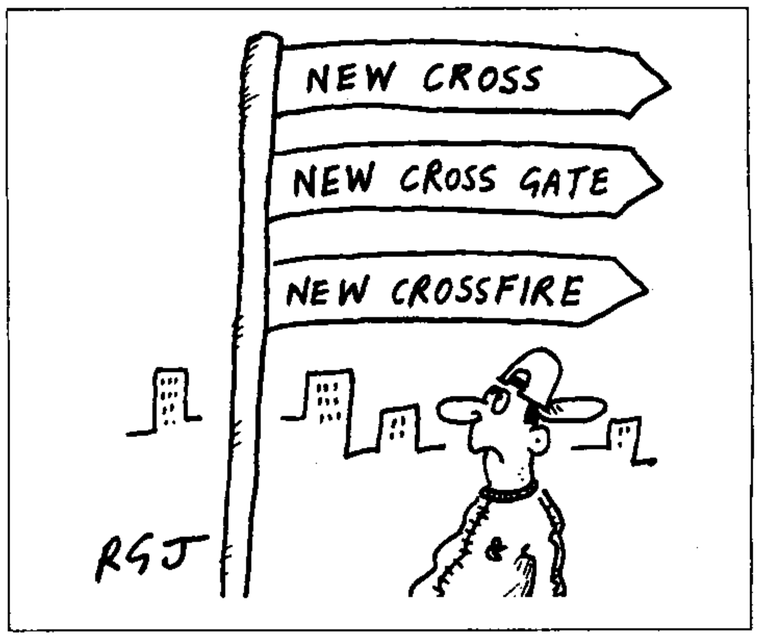
# BARNET UNFAIR

BACK in 2001, under Labour, the London borough of Barnet transferred management of its care homes to Catalyst Housing Trust.

This was promoted as an alternative to privatisation as Catalyst is a "not for profit" organisation. Catalyst subcontracted the management of staff in the homes to another "not-for-profit" company called Fremantle. Six years on, however, Catalyst is not only not making a profit, it is suffering an £8m loss. A clause in the multi-million pound contract stipulates that if losses run at more than 10 percent, Catalyst can be bailed out from public funds. So it is demanding that Barnet make up the shortfall.

The council, now Tory-controlled, is resisting the claim. But the money has to come from somewhere. Who better to shell out than the homes' already low-paid staff? During the summer Fremantle announced it would sack all the workers and re-employ them on new, lower rates for longer hours with reduced sickness benefit. Weekend and unsocial hours allowances are to be abolished – money that many of the care assistants rely on to keep up their pay. Some will see their income cut by a third. More than 100 Unison members have held a series of one-day strikes in protest.

Happily not all Fremantle staff are feeling the pinch. Accounts lodged with the Charity Commission show that between 2004 and 2006, while the workers' pay was frozen, Fremantle's chief executive Carole Sawyers saw her salary rise from the £60,000-£70,000 range to £90,000-£100,000. Trebles all round!




**● MADELINE RUSSELL, Conservative leader of Bedfordshire county council, had a ready answer when challenged in the council chamber about a Rotten Boroughs story in *Eye* 1192. We had reported how the council had poured millions down the drain in recent years on various projects including a futile £300,000 "We Love Bedfordshire" PR campaign, a failed £267m part-privatisation deal with Hyder Business Services which cost £14m to get out of, and a planned £2m refurbishment of soon-to-be-redundant County Hall.**

**"*Private Eye*'s correspondent never gets his figures right," screeched Maddie. "Unfortunately, nearly all the figures quoted were wrong."**

**Ooh-er! We emailed Cllr Russell and offered to correct our mistakes, if she could tell us what they were. No reply. After five days we sent a gentle reminder. This time she said she would get back to us. We are still waiting.**

**Meanwhile David Rogers, an *Eye* reader living in Bedfordshire, writes to say he has received an 18-page questionnaire, sent to all householders by BCC at vast expense, asking his views on council services and the like. Question 23 asks residents where they get their information about the council. Mr Rogers replied: "*Private Eye.*"**

# HELPING THE NEEDY

SENSITIVE to criticism that massive new developments which have bulldozed traditional "Coronation St" communities and seen them replaced by acres of yuppie flats amounts to "social cleansing" (*Eyes* 1193 & 1194), Salford city council last December adopted a planning guideline requiring that "in housing developments of 25 or more dwellings, 20 percent... should be in the form of affordable dwellings".

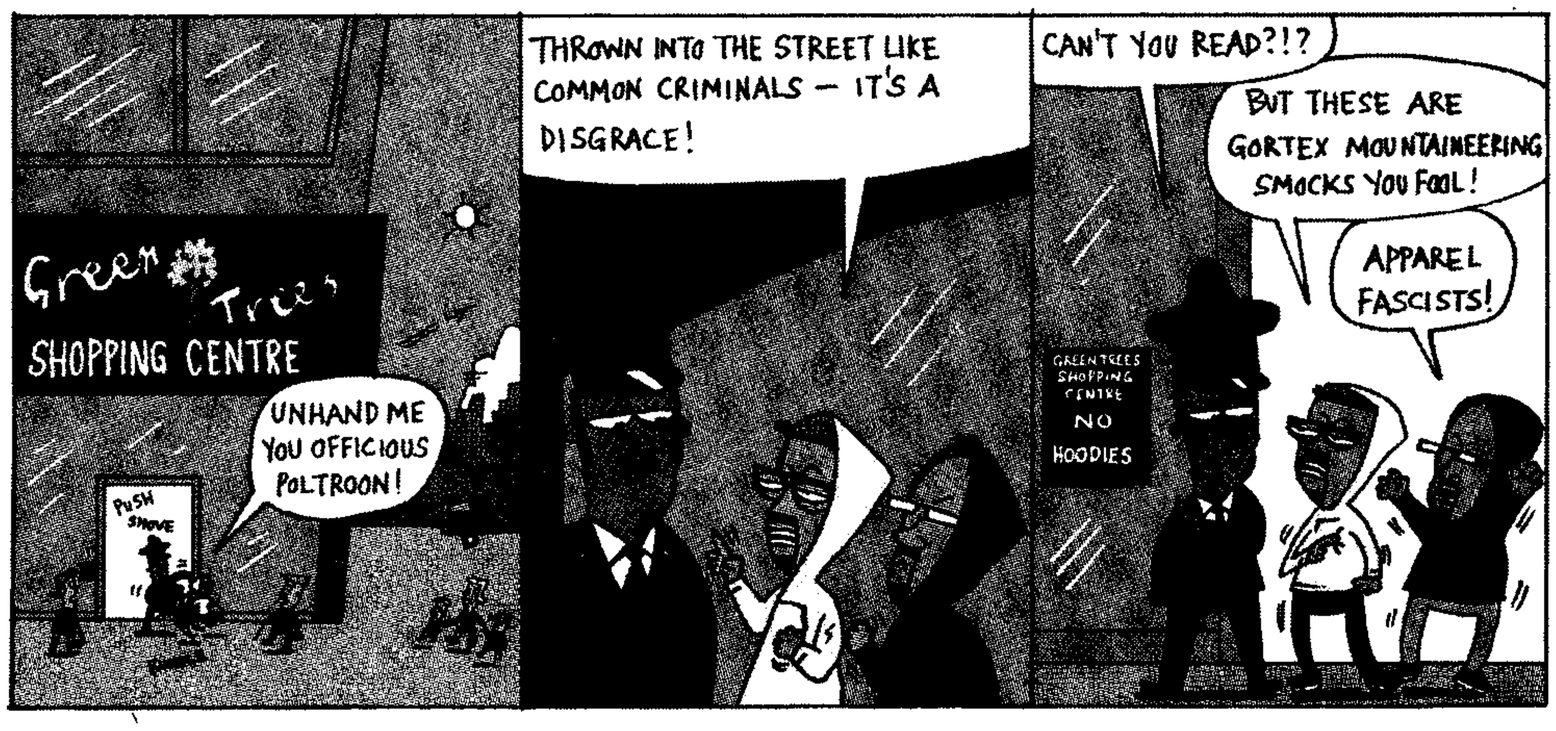
In the 10 months since this was introduced, applications for some 5,363 homes have been approved by planners within central Salford. According to the "20 percent affordable" rule, they should therefore include 1,073 homes in that category. The actual figure is, er, 102 – fewer than 2 percent.

Developer KW Linfoot told planners its £200m "ManYoo" apartment blocks on Salford Quays, interior-designed by Jade Jagger, would be "unviable" if affordable housing was included – *passed!* ASK Developments (a Mick Hucknall-backed company which donated £5,100 to Manchester Labour party prior to winning the contract to build the city's super-casino) said its plans for a 23-storey block of 654 luxury flats would not be "commercially viable" if affordable housing was included – *passed!* Peel Holdings, developers of mediacity:uk, persuaded planners that a 23-storey, 300-apartment block on the Quays was not an "appropriate" site for "affordable housing provision" – *passed!*

How touching to see a Labour council showing its concern for disadvantaged developers!

**● FOR THE RECORD: Peter Walls, chief executive of the Sunderland housing group Gentoo, has been told he will face no further police action following his arrest last month on suspicion of making threats to kill property developer John Finn (*Eye* 1193).**

**IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON** KNIFE & PACKER

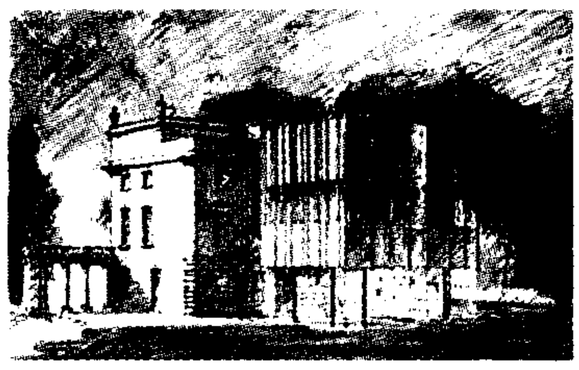


# NOOKS and CORNERS

**BATH, that normally sedate watering place, seems in turmoil as Bath & North-East Somerset council (Banes) struggles with the contentious matter of "modern architecture".**

In recent years the council has acted as if ashamed of the fact that Bath is a handsome stone-built Georgian city and a World Heritage Site, even though that is its main claim to fame.

Desperate not to appear conservative, it has enthusiastically endorsed any striking, exciting, uncompromising, etc, modern design, regardless of how destructive it might be to the precious fabric of the city. Such pathetic posturing accounts for the council's approval of the (unnecessary) demolition of Churchill House, a seriously decent Classical building, faced in Bath stone, for a new High Tec bus station designed by Wilkinson Eyre despite massive opposition (*Eye* 1183).



**Revised design for Holburne Museum extension**

Then came the recently proposed extension to the Holburne Museum, a large and discordant design by Eric Parry Architects faced, for no apparent reason, in bright blue ceramic (*Eyes* 1187 & 1191). Banes officers recommended approval but the councillors, to everyone's surprise, said no. This decision caused outrage in the architectural world and produced a puerile response from the museum's director, Alexander Sturgis, who in a crude attempt at blackmail announced that the museum would have to close if the extension was not built.

Of course there is nothing wrong with the concept of an extension to the rear of the late Georgian building; but why does it have to be in bright blue ceramic and glass, paying no respect to its neighbours? As for the childish notion that a modern building should shout that it is "of its own time", I note yet again that when the great I.K. Brunel – scarcely a reactionary figure – took the Great Western Railway through Sydney Gardens just behind the Holburne, he was well-mannered enough to build bridges of Bath stone and place balustrades along the walls of the cutting.

At first the fear was that the rejection of the extension design would mean the loss of a projected Heritage Lottery Fund grant, but Eric Parry has been allowed more time to get planning permission. And Mr Sturgis has been having "constructive talks" with the council and others "in an attempt to reach a swifter resolution". Thus a revised design has been submitted.

This is about a metre shorter in height, has a window on the top floor allowing a view of Sydney Gardens and – crucially – is to be faced with a brownish ceramic cladding. The reflecting pool in the park is also reduced in size. But the design still has its vertical fins and thus the same jagged vertical character so alien to the Classical building it abuts. And why face it in ceramic? Would it be such a cop-out to use Bath stone?

Will Banes now lapse back into its usual anti-traditional stance and oblige? We shall see. But I am sorry to have to report that the council allowed Churchill House to be demolished last June, despite the fact that even the developers accepted the argument that most of the structure could perfectly well survive without impeding the proposed new bus station.

The most intriguing development in the city concerns another long-running case. The Newark Works of Stohert & Pitt by the river Avon was going to be demolished to make way for the Dyson School of Design Innovation, again designed by Wilkinson Eyre (*Eyes passim*). But to the fury of the inventor and entrepreneur James Dyson, the building was then listed, partly because it had been designed by Thomas Fuller, the future architect of the Canadian parliament at Ottawa. So Wilkinson Eyre came up with a scheme that involved demolishing most of the Newark Works, leaving its façade in artificial and meaningless isolation cutting great chunks out of the splendid masonry plinth to make the windows into an open arcade – proof that High Tec architects cannot be trusted with decent, civilized masonry buildings.

But this now won't happen. For some reason the council has decided that the site – which it owns – is to be used by Bath Spa University and not for the Dyson School. It seems a shabby way to treat Dyson, who has been planning his school for several years and originally hoped it would open next year, but I am afraid this can only be good news for Bath and architecture – assuming, that is, that Bath Spa University employs an architect who will treat Thomas Fuller's building with the respect it deserves.

***"HE IS dressed in a casual, continental style – an open-neck pink shirt with cuffs turned up – and he fiddles with his spectacles, rolling the translucent white frames between his fingers".***

***Who but the ineffable Milord Rogers of Riverside, being interviewed by Paul Rodgers for the Independent on Sunday? "The characteristic he will be remembered for… is turning buildings inside out. 'If you want flexibility and you believe in environmental sustainability, change, growth and adaptation, then you don't want interruptions inside the building,' he says. 'That allows you to manipulate the form and the play of light and shadow; that is architecture, otherwise it's a box'." Discuss.***

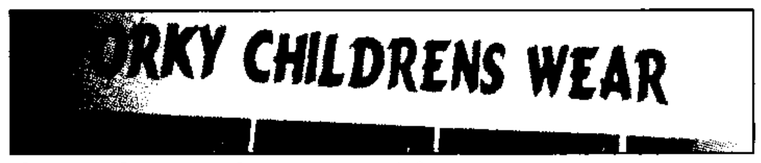
*'Piloti'*

## YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS

BY BIRCH

It's really worrying, what's happening to our cattle.
Foot and Mouth?
Blue Tongue?
Much worse than that!
My God!
The economic damage could be catastrophic!
DAMIEN HIRST'S PICKLED COWS SPRING A LEAK
"MOTHER AND CHILD DIVIDED". SEMINAL PIECE
FORMALDEHYDE EVERYWHERE

## I-SPY




***Seoul, S. Korea*** **(Helen Harris)**

***Petrol Station, Albania*** **(Mark Evans)**

£10 paid for similar submissions.
*(SAE required for return of photographs)*

## MUSIC & MUSICIANS

**IT'S virtually a law of nature that whenever the BBC is feeling poor it goes into *Medea*-mode, uttering dark, provocative threats to kill off a few of its more expensive children, notably the orchestras.**

Provocation is, to date, as far as things have got. The sacrificial knife is brandished fearsomely, then put away.

But what the Beeb has failed to do with a flourish it now seems poised to do by stealth, the first victim being its own out-of-London flagship band, the BBC Philharmonic.

Generally ranked as No 2 in the BBC pecking order after the BBC Symphony, but in many ways 1st Equal, the Philharmonic has always been based in Manchester and over the past 20 years has effectively become the city's finest orchestra, edging the Hallé into also-ran status.

But no more. The orchestra has just been poached by Salford City Council, which has announced plans to lure the Philharmonic to the far side of the Ship Canal to Salford as part of a long-term sponsorship deal. Initially the council will cough up some £1.5m for the privilege of calling the orchestra its own; but from 2010 the funding will rise to £3m, which amounts to three-fifths of the band's current budget.

Of course it all looks on paper to be pretty wonderful, enabling the Philharmonic to do so much more in the way of easy access concerts, educational programmes and the like. Except it won't. The minute Salford starts to write its cheques, the Beeb will start reciprocally to cut off what it pays – increasing the reductions year by year until it ends up paying very little. So the true story of this wonderful sponsorship is that the Philharmonic will be no better off and the BBC, meanwhile, will have quietly walked away from it: not quite *Medea*-level on the register of child abuse, but definite abandonment.

In defence of its actions the BBC has made the usual noise about duty to the licence-payer; and it has promised to resume parental responsibilities if necessary when the Salford deal expires, as it will in eight years. But who knows what the BBC will even look like in eight years' time? The likelihood of it stepping back into the picture with armfuls of cash is not great. So the Philharmonic has to all intents and purposes been offloaded; and all the smiles, balloons and spin the Beeb will wrap around this "liberation" won't disguise the truth. The only question now is which of the Beeb's other bands will be sold off next. Quietly.

*'Lunchtime O'Boulez'*

# Letters

## Scottish reeling

*Sir,*

*My toes were curling with embarrassment on reading the letter on Scottish oil by a fellow countryman in Eye 1194. Unfortunately this style of ill-informed rant is highly representative of attitudes in Scotland these days.*

*I am sure I need scarcely emphasise the point with your readers that the Enlightenment has long since departed the benighted land of my birth, and rational discourse has been replaced by vitriolic chippiness about imaginary grievances, fuelled mainly by the film "Braveheart".*

*Painting one's face blue and shouting "freeduhm", "a nation again" is about as close as one gets to informed discussion about Scotland's past, present and future relationship with England, as I discovered in 1997 when amid all the emotive nonsense and slogans from the "Yes" voters, I could not find one person who had even heard of the Barnett formula.*

*Like many of my fellow countrymen, your correspondent J. Paul Henderson completely ignores the latter, along with the enormous benefits that the union of 1707 brought with Scottish access to the colonies. Oh and there's the small matter of 300 years of shared history, including our finest hour, when we stood alone against Hitler. But this type of more recent history doesn't typically register with English-baiters, who prefer to concentrate on the events of 700 years ago. The best part of a millennium is a long time to bear a grudge, even for a Scot.*

*Kind Regards,*
*J. PAUL MARNEY,*

*Langside, Glasgow.*

## Lookalike

**Magoo**

**Fayed**

*Sir,*

*In the attached pictures your readers may notice the resemblance between Mr Magoo and Mr Fayed. One is a lovable cartoon character; the other is wearing a fez.*

*CATH BOYLAN,*

*London.*

*"Oi, you looking at my curd?"*

## Baton charge

*Sir,*

*I have to take issue with Lunchtime O'Boulez's statement that the "greatest baton-wavers tend to be the most tyrannical". Great conductors are rarer than a condom machine in the Vatican, and the truly great ones with whom I have had the privilege of working (Haitink, Giulini, Temirkanov, Boulez etc) have been respectful and at the service of the music, even unto players such as us trombonists, who are firmly at the bottom of the food chain.*

*Yes, demanding and with expectations, but never succumbing to rank, petulant twattery. Country miles from the ranting, ego-crazed, bullying, trumped-up church-organist types, whose main qualifications are being old, grumpy and German.*

*The "heart-stopping performances" are rendered by the musicians, who are constantly in a state of cardiac infarction themselves from having to perform at the highest level with inadequate rehearsal, dealing with touring schedules that break every health and safety directive you could possibly imagine, and, above everything, frequently having to rescue the overpaid buffoons who haven't prepared the scores properly: conductors' mistakes are ten-a-concert, and silent...*

*Yours rantingly,*
*AMOS MILLER,*

*Via email.*

*Sir,*

*In the Music & Musicians column on the conductor Gerard Schwarz (Eye 1194) Lunchtime O'Boulez repeats the naive and long-discredited view that the greatest orchestral performances could only be achieved by merciless tyrants, quoting Furtwangler, Toscanini and Karajan who "put the fear of God" into the players.*

*Anyone more closely acquainted with music knows that equally fine results were achieved by artists with a wholly different approach, such as Beecham, Giulini and Bruno Walter, who used charm and consummate musicianship to achieve their aims, treating the players as fellow professionals rather than recalcitrant pupils.*

*I thought this old canard had been laid to rest long ago.*

*Yours sincerely,*
*MICHAEL BOYLE,*

*Woodford Green, Essex.*

## Classical ruin?

*Sir,*

*With regards to Radio 3 risking its core audience (Eye 1194), I note that radiotime.com (an aggregator of radio stations broadcasting over the internet, boasting some 50,000 programmes, including 377 classical and opera broadcasts) tags Radio 3 as "Jazz-New Age, World..."*

*Yours faithfully,*
*CHRISTOPHER SUCKLING,*

*Via email.*

## Nurse, the screens

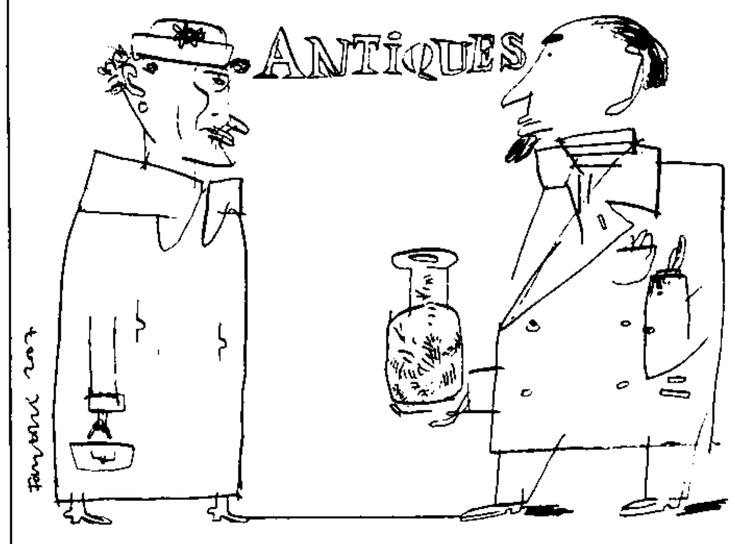
*Sir,*

*With regard to new measures to combat hospital acquired infection such as losing white coats, ties and the rolling up of shirt sleeves. Some of my colleagues are well ahead of the game. They have been practicing with at least one trouser leg rolled up for years and have managed to avoid any faecal contamination no matter how close to the fan they were standing.*

*Yours faithfully,*
*GASTON GUBERNACULUM,*

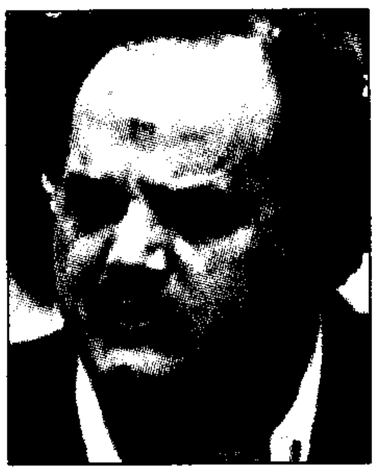
*St Elsewhere's Hospital.*

## Scenes You Seldom See




*"Dear lady, this is genuine Ming. I'll give you five hundred thousand pounds for it"*

## Lookalike



**Sipowicz**

**Amaral**

*Sir,*

*I wonder if any of your readers have noticed the striking resemblance between the sacked Portuguese detective Chief Inspector Gonçalo Amaral, and Detective Andy Sipowicz from "NYPD Blue"?*

*One was once memorably described as "a drunken, racist goon with a heart of gold". The other is less highly regarded – at least by the British press.*

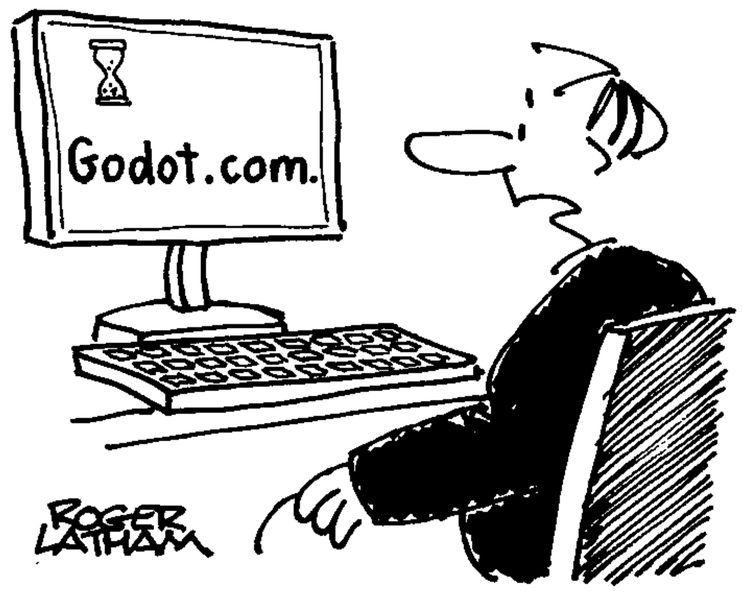
*Yours,*
*ENA B. MANNORAK,*

*London W2.*

*"I'm bored being a real boy, Gepetto... I want to be a **virtual** boy"*

ACHILLEA products
Are made traditional
recipes without conservatives

*Greek food label*




*"Come on... come on... come ON!"*

## Notes & queries

*Sir,*

*Michael Parkinson's Diary, as told to Craig Brown (1194), is perfect except that it omits the phrase "I mean", which Parky inserts into nearly every sentence.*

*TONY AUGARDE.*

*In issue 1194 you have in your Diary section Michael Parkinson. I think Craig Brown was hoodwinked. Whoever Mr Brown spoke to was an impostor. Eight whole entries and not one single mention of Barnsley, even when a fellow Barnsley lad, Dickie Bird, was brought into the mix.*

*I would check your sources more thoroughly as Michael would never miss an opportunity like that to reminisce about his days as a "lad int tarn".*

*ADE BOZZAY (good old Barnsley name).*

*I hope I don't sound too pedantic, but the "Quality of Life Tory Report" on page 20 (Eye 1194) claims that Edmund Burke was a Tory. Although he had Conservative views, he was not a Tory as he was a member of the Whig party.*

*DR NICK.*

*Further to recent correspondence (1192 & 1193), Thomson and Thompson did in fact appear first in "Cigars of the Pharaoh". The detectives are seen in "Tintin in the Congo", but in the 1946 redrawn edition, not the original 1930 version. "Cigars" was published in 1932 and introduced agents X33 and X33A; the names came later. As droopy-moustached Thompson says: "Dear as clay. That's my opinion and I'm stuck with it."*

*EDWARD BIDDULPH.*

*Pseuds Corporate (1193) is unfair on Winterthur (misspelled "Wintertur" in the piece). It is those champions of lingusitic clarity, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, who are responsible for the term "benefit crystallisation event", of which they identify nine different types.*

*EDWARD WHITEHOUSE.*

*Re the "Gods Behaving Badly" debate, I suspect the great-grand-daddy of them all may be Gilbert and Sullivan's first and relatively unsuccessful collaboration "Thespis, or The Gods Grown Old" (1871), in which the elderly Greek gods come down to explore the modern world. The score is now mostly lost, because the thrifty Sullivan recycled chunks of it. As for the London Underground as a route to Hades: apart from being the daily experience of many metropolitan wage-slaves, this has been used in at least two English productions of Offenbach's "Orpheus in the Underworld".*

*DEREK GREATREX.*

*Henning Sieverts correctly says that Gian-Carlo Menotti lived mostly in the USA and in Scotland. However, according to an interview recorded on the Radio 3 "In Tune" programme just after his death, Menotti remained an Italian citizen. To be eligible to receive a Pulitzer prize for one of his compositions, he agreed to become a US citizen for one day.*

*2. The parish council near Oldland Common is not called Britton, but Bitton (a village about halfway between Bristol and Bath).*

*GORDON JACKSON.*

*In Library News (1194) you credit Paris with the introduction of book vending machines about a year ago.*

*In the 1960s at Victoria Station in Manchester by the WH Smith was a vending machine, which I used often during my years working in that city. Prices were 2/6d and 3/6d.*

*Manchester decades ahead as usual.*

*BRIAN ROBINSON.*

*The I-spy on page 12 of Eye 1194 isn't as far off the mark as your contributor may think; by linking the image of flying cricket stumps with directions to Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club the sign-writer was clearly paying homage to the MCC, who drew up the original rules of the game in 1875.*

*I always knew that little gem of knowledge would come in handy; and now I really must try to get out more.*

*SIMON ARBUTHNOT.*

## Colemanballs

*£10 paid for contributions*

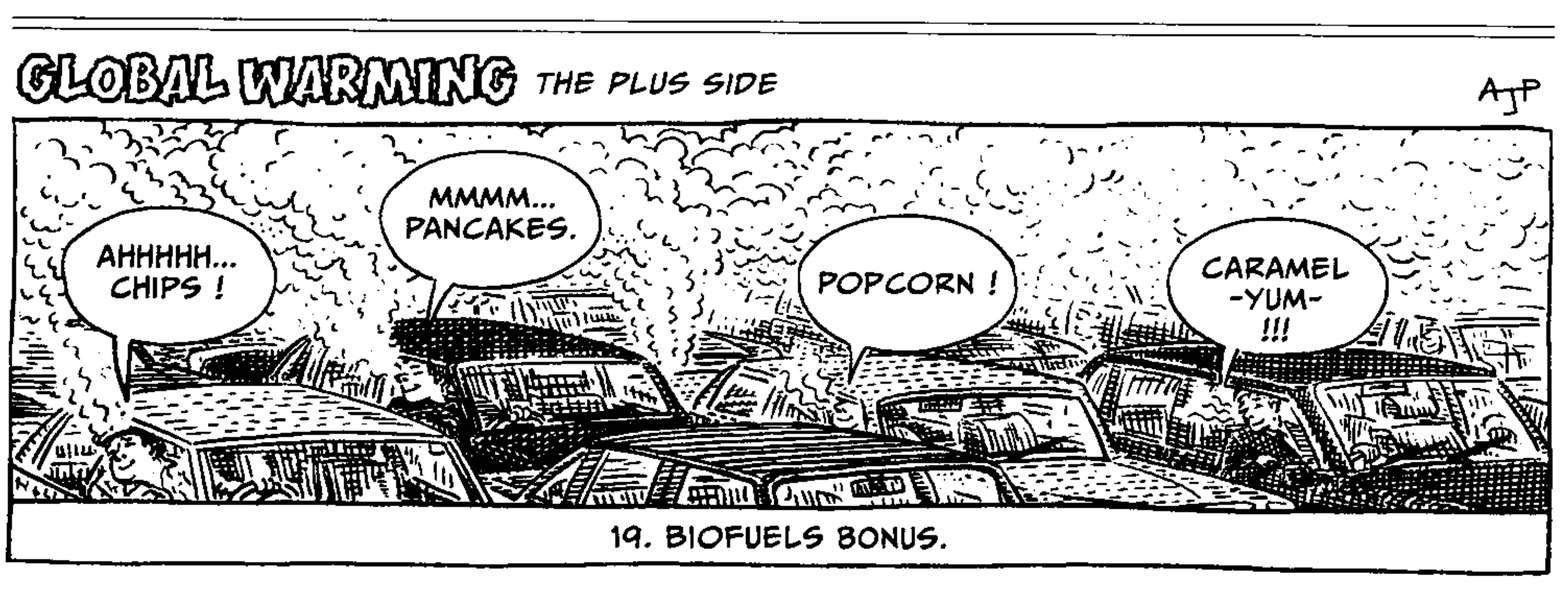
*"Yeah, OK, so I got a personal best – but, for me personally, that just isn't good enough."*
**JEANETTE KWAKYE, Radio 5 Live**
(Ged Parsons)

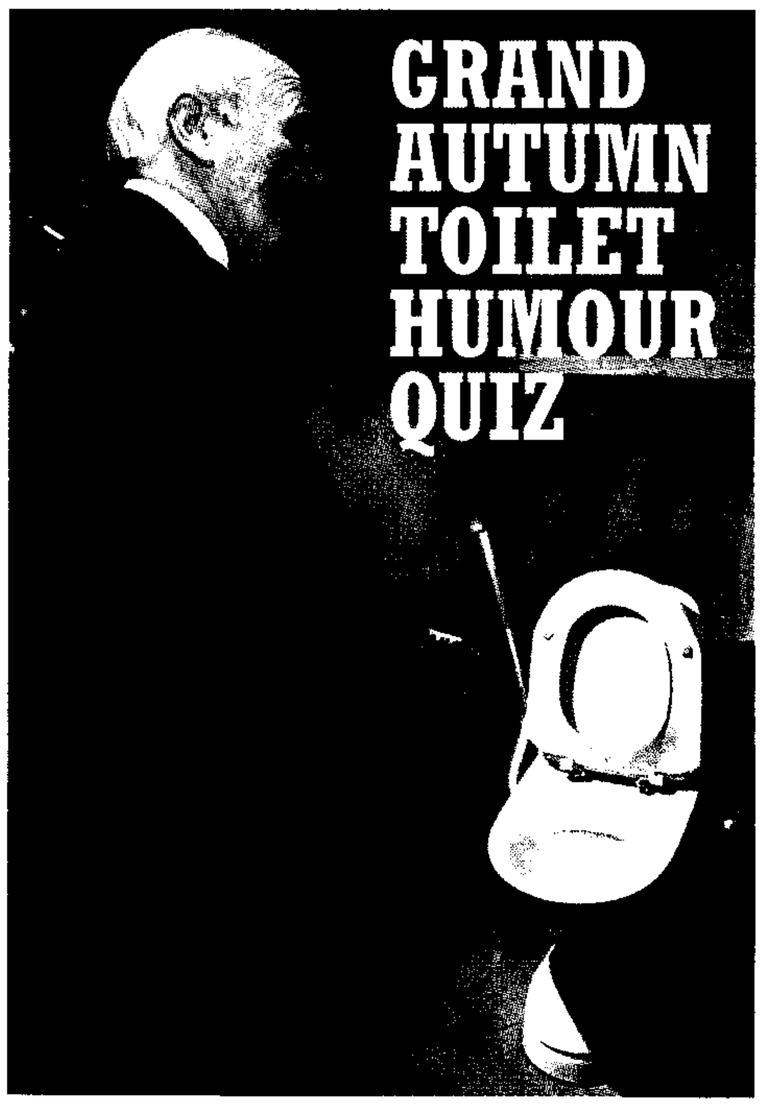
*"The Great North Run is the longest half-marathon in the world."*
**Presenter, Talksport Radio**
(Michael Charalambous)

*"What a great one [goal], with his so-called right foot."*
**DEREK JOHNSTONE, Radio Clyde**
(Neil McGregor)

*"A lot of these players can't cope without discipline. It's like Pavlova's dog out there."*
**IEUAN EVANS, BBC1 Wales**
(Richard Parnell)

*"Every major green thing that's been done in our history, from cleaning the water under Disraeli to cleaning the air under Harold Macmillan, has been done by a Tory government."*
**JOHN GUMMER, Radio 4**
(Colin McNicoll)




THANKS to readers for the very large volume of terrible entries received.

The runners-up were:

- **Bill Measure** – **Toilet**: "The Lib Dems are falling between two stools!"
- **John Wassel** – **Toilet**: "Another Lib Dem in the closet!"
- **Nick Sellers** – **Toilet**: "I'm a John, Menzies!"
- **Ross Burns** – **Ming** *(pointing to toilet)*: "This is our think tank"
- **Dominic Symon** – **Ming** *(to toilet)*: "I'm not really Party Leader. I'm just going through the motions"
- **Martin McKay** – **Ming:** "I'm just a flush in the pan."
- **Vicki Sloman** – **Ming**: "It's the throne of the Ming Dysentery!"

★ **Grand winner of a year's free subscription:**

- **Graham Whyte** – **Ming** *(to toilet)*: Is that a floating voter?"

A special mention goes to **Freddie Nickolds** – **Ming to toilet:** "*What's it like not being put down all the time?*" – which was too adult to be considered for the prize.

*(In compliance with BBC rules the winner was chosen before the competition was announced. Ed.)*

## SOLUTIONS

"Outreach solutions should be implemented where a full-time branch is not practical or viable" – *closed post offices*

"Deluxe Seat Solution: Helps relieve back ache, fatigue, discomfort, soreness" – *cushion*

"El Remote Guarding Solutions" – *burglar alarms*

"Harrow Green: Business Change Solutions" – *removals*

"Serano contemporary furniture solutions" – *coffee table*

*All submitted by readers*

## Letter from **Cape Town**

*from Our Own Correspondent*

**ONE bizarre legacy of apartheid which the new black elite has embraced with gusto is that South Africa is a spy society.**

In the bad old days we had the legendary BOSS and the wittily titled, psychotically homicidal Civil Co-Operation Bureau which used to spy on, and if necessary blow up or mutilate, ordinary citizens. Today, under the African National Congress, our spooks mainly spy on rival factions within the ruling party or simply fight each other.

The present frenzy of spying is related to the battle over who will succeed our secretive president Thabo Mbeki in 2009. Sacked former deputy president, über-randy OAP Jacob Zuma, believes Mbeki is deploying the spooks to persecute him, not just over corruption and rape charges but in leaking juicy gossip about his rampant sex life. Only just revealed: Comrade Zuma has 20 children by different women.

The ferocity of the succession means bureaucrats are also smearing or framing rivals and it's leading to civil war. Mbeki has even suspended Vusi Pikoli, head of the National Prosecuting Authority, in charge of prosecuting Comrade Zuma. Why? Because Pikoli was about to arrest our police commissioner for his close ties with organised crime bosses – but our top cop is a Mbekite!

From one day to another, no one knows who's in which camp.

The director-general of the National Intelligence Agency was dramatically fired by the Comrade President last year and is now dragging the case through the courts, raising anxious questions about what our spies really do. Yet Billy Masetlha had been one of Mbeki's staunchest confidants, said to have been tasked with digging dirt on Zuma to scupper his presidential ambitions. Instead Comrade Billy was discovered spying on some of Mbeki's closest ANC allies. Everyone's bugging everyone else. Many politicians now simply refuse to talk to journalists on the phone. For those of us who lived through the paranoia of apartheid, it's all quite nostalgic.

In 1994, the year Nelson Mandela became president, we boasted no fewer than 16,650 intelligence agents. This included the vast panoply of apartheid spooks, ANC and other liberation movement "operatives", plus all the Bantustan spies. Within a year 10,000 had been "outsourced." Of course they all went private with their grubby files, and are now flogging their findings to the highest bidder.

When the multi-millionaire tycoon and ANC bigshot Tokyo Sexwale declared *his* bid for the presidency, the first thing that he did was, naturally, hire two former senior ANC spooks rather than policy advisers, spin doctors or pollsters. So much for the battle of ideas. This succession is about what dirt you have on your opponent.

Loyalty is everything. This explains Mbeki's kamikaze devotion to the criminally incompetent health minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, who believes the best cure for Aids is a brew of olive oil, garlic, lemon and beetroot. She's just been exposed as a chronic alcoholic and kleptomaniac. Newspapers now openly report what's long been whispered: when Comrade Manto meets other ministers, their bodyguards hide their mobile phones!

Recently returning to work after her liver transplant (almost certainly thanks to cirrhosis) the Soviet-trained Comrade Minister appeared confused at her first press conference and lapsed into Russian. Mad Manto may be destroying our health service singled-handedly. But it doesn't matter. At least she's loyal to Thabo.

There is one other factor in her survival which no one dares mention. Her hubby is our former high commissioner in London, Mendi Msimang, who is now treasurer for the ANC. Thus he knows all the secrets of illicit ANC funding and grotesquely profligate arms deals… and, crucially, what may (or may not) have been Comrade President Thabo's role in them.

# FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

● "Some people might think it's strange to recycle sex toys," Ruth Wilkinson of LoveHoney UK told a press conference, "but most vibrators contain hazardous metals, such as lead, chromium, cadmium, and mercury. New EU regulations require householders to dispose of all electrical waste in an environmentally responsible way, and we don't want millions of old vibrators being dumped in landfills across the country. That's why we've set up Rabbit Amnesty, to take the embarrassment out of the situation, and give people the chance to dispose of their old vibrators in an environmentally friendly way.

"When people send their worn-out vibrators to us for recycling, we donate £1 to the World Land Trust for each one received. We don't recycle the whole vibrator, because most people wouldn't want to buy a used sex toy. But we do send them to a Designated Collection Facility, where reusable components like printed circuit boards are stripped out, and the rest are disposed of according to international environmental standards. And as an extra incentive to make green living sexy, punters who recycle can get a new Rabbit for half price." *(Newconsumer News, 15/8/07. Spotter: John Humphreys)*

– ● –

● *"Our sixty giant pandas produce over three hundred tons of droppings each year," Jing Shimin told reporters at the Chengdu research base in Sichuan Province, "and we used to spend 6,000 yuan each month getting rid of the mess. But then we realised that we could turn the droppings into something lucrative, by asking local craftsmen to fashion souvenirs from the dung, instead of just burying it. Tourists love these animals, and now they have a chance to own a genuine hand-crafted artefact made entirely from panda shit, which is guaranteed to be relatively odour-free. The droppings don't smell too bad, because 70% of the dung is just the remains of the bamboo that the pandas are unable to digest.*

*"Before the craftsmen get to work, the panda dung is dried and sterilised at a temperature of 300 degrees Centigrade, to provide clean raw material for the manufacturers. Then the craftsmen sculpt each turd by hand into a small cuddly panda for tour[redacted] Olympic Games comi[redacted] working on moulding [redacted] athletic pandas perform[redacted] field events, to sell as spec[redacted] in 2008. We got the idea afte[redacted] Mai Zoo in Thailand, whe[redacted] selling multicoloured panda p[redacted] great success. Their paper is [redacted] panda faeces in a boiling sod[redacted] bleaching them with chlorine, an[redacted] under the sun, and if our statues [redacted] their paper, our pandas will be ab[redacted] their own keep."* (China Daily, 31/7/[redacted] Laurence Hollingsworth)

– ● –

● **Ofcom Broadcasting Standards ca[redacted]**

*Complaint against Bobby Bossman, Su[redacted] Radio, 24 December 2005, 19:45.*

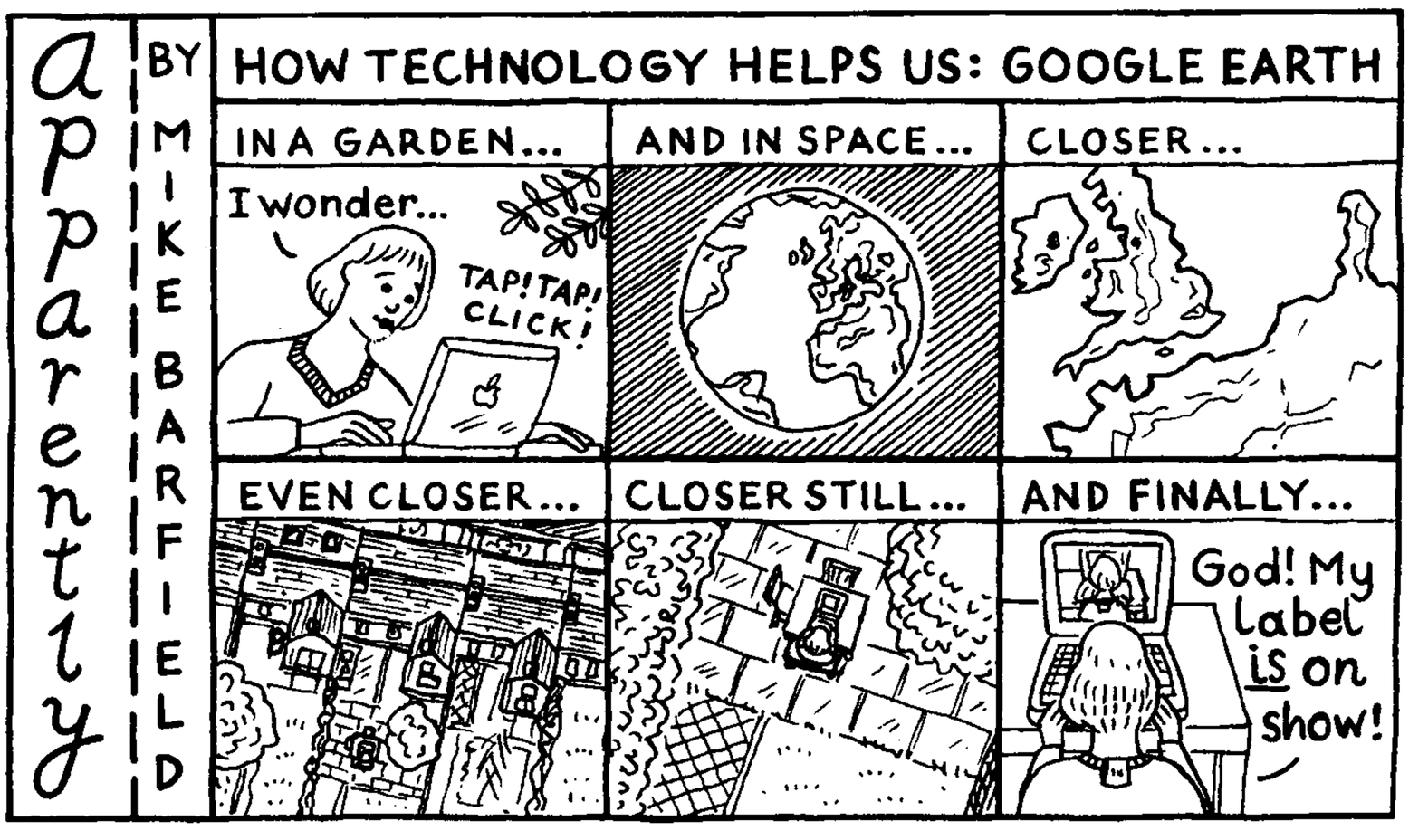
**Introduction:** This show (broadcast [redacted] Christmas Eve) featured a comedy item calle[redacted] 'Silent (but deadly) Night'. It featured a sampled recording of people breaking wind to the tune of the traditional Christmas Carol. One person complained that this was unacceptable, especially during the Christmas period.

**Response:** Sunrise Radio said that the presenter broadcast a personal apology the following day

(Christmas Day). Whilst he did not mention the complainant by name, he said that he was heartily sorry to have offended him. He said that it had only been a bit of fun, but that he did not like upsetting even one listener.

**Decision:** In the light of the on-air apology, we did not feel, on this occasion, that we needed to intervene further. For practising Christians, carols are an important part of the Christmas religious festival. It is important that broadcasters are aware of the particular religious sensitivities of all communities, especially at times of celebration or commemoration of the important festivals in those communities' calendars.

Complaint resolved. *(Ofcom Broadcast Bulletin, 20/3/06. Spotter: John Warburton)*



...sts to take home. With the
...g soon, we are currently
...he poop into statues of
...ing various track and
...ial Olympic souvenirs
...visiting the Chiang
...re they have been
...per for years, with
...ade by cleaning
... solution, then
...d drying them
...ell as well as
...e to pay for
...7. Spotter:

...cuting
...explained,
a lot worse.
... innocent man
...s could easily have
...ne in the carriage, not
...n those waiting on the
...m and even the underground

...ng tickets.
think we should be
...luded," he continued, "for our
...straint in very difficult
circumstances. After all, the
suspect bore an uncanny
resemblance to the dangerous
terrorist in question.

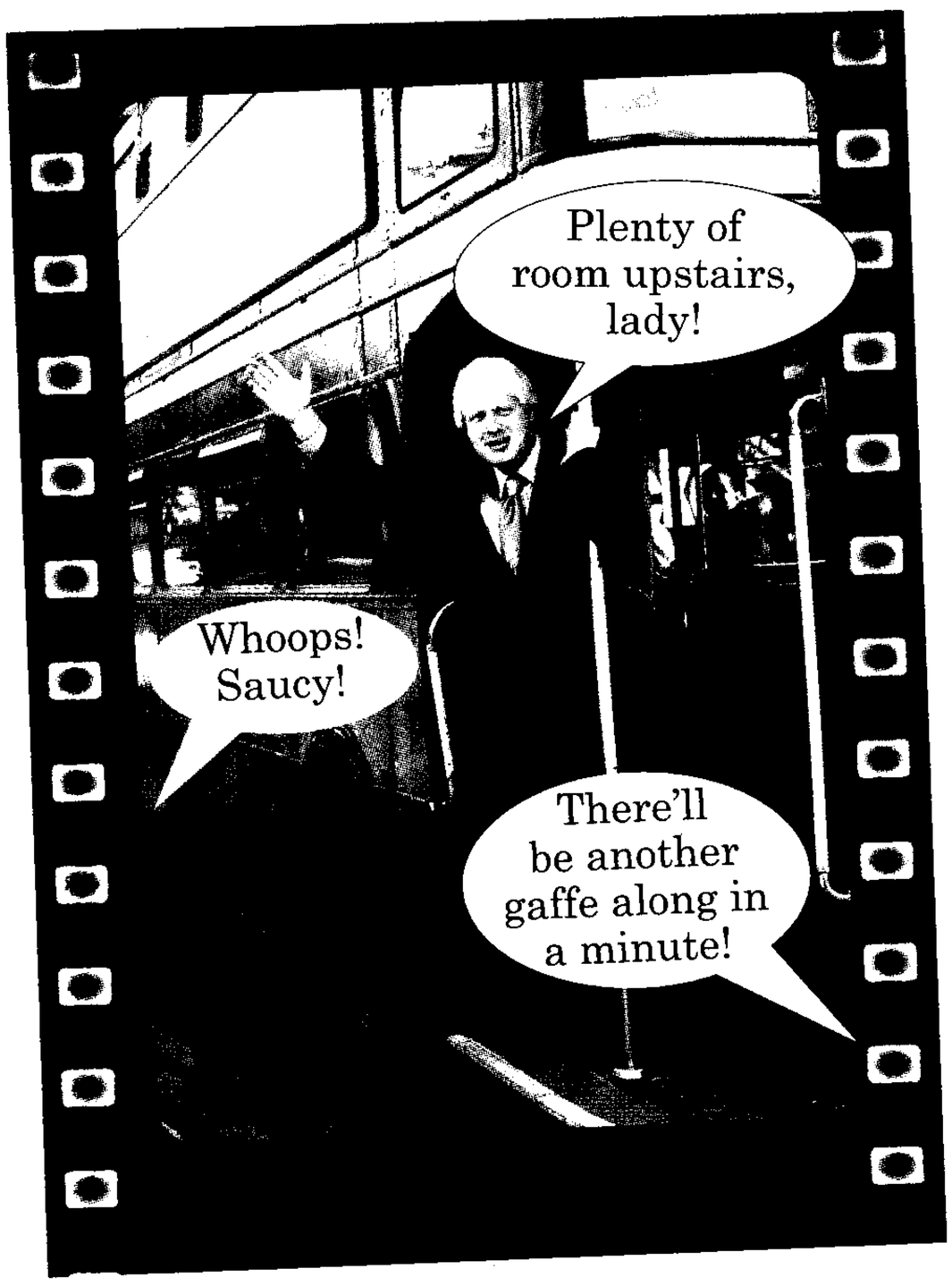
"Menezes was wearing shoes and trousers and had two eyes and a nose – just like the wanted man."

Inspector Knacker has since been promoted to head of Scotland Yard's crack anti-terrorist unit known as "The Lying Squad."

# ...Y BEST'
## ...k claim
...ng

17

# CARRY ON BORIS




## GREAT KIPLING SONGS REVISITED

# MANDALAY

"On the road to Mandalay,
Where the dying monks all lay,
An' the guns come up like thunder
Outer China 'crost the Bay"

*(That's enough. Ed.)*

© 2007 words & music General Than Shwe

# GLENDA SLAGG

## FLEET STREET'S STRONGEST DRINK!?!

*(surely 'LINK'? Ed.)*

**■ HATS OFF to the BBC's Queen of Mean, the gorgeous flame-haired questionmistress-in-chief herself!?! Annie Robinson, I'm talking about, Mister!?! And for why is this Dishy Dame in the news? 'Cause she's had the guts to tell her boring has-been of a husband to pack his bags and clear out!?! Millions of us glamorous getting-on-a-bit gals have got a Past-It Penrose in our lives who we'd like to see walk out the door!?! And then we could swap him for a testosterone-fuelled toy-boy half our age!?! Let's all take a leaf out of Annie's Man-Management Manual and shout, "You are the Weakest Husband! Goodbye!"**

■ANNE ROBINSON!?! What a disgrace!?! Just because you've had a facelift and dyed your hair a stupid colour you suddenly think you're God's gift to the opposite sex!?!! You've kicked out poor old Put-Upon Penrose and you think every toyboy in the country will come a-bangin' and a-bonkin' outside your bedroom door!?? Well, I'll let you in on a secret, Annie!?! You still look like the back end of a bus and if anyone is the Weakest Link it's you!?!! If I was Penrose, I'd be down the pub with my mates, having a few beers and chatting up the local talent!??! Geddit?! He will and you won't!?! Ha! Ha! Ha!

**■ WILLS 'n' Kate – leave them alone, for heaven's sake!?! Ain't it enough that the People's Prince has to relive his Mum's last moments chased by the peeping-tom paparazzi?!? And now he can't even go out with his girlfriend for a quiet curry without being hounded by the hordes of lascivious lensmen a-snappin' and a-pappin'!?!! Next thing we know he'll be crashing into the Kingsway underpass driven by a drunk Frenchman!?!! Is that what we want!?!**

■WILLS 'n' Kate – what do they expect when they go out a-boozin' and a-schmoozin' in the seedy nightclubs of South Kensington?!!?! No wonder the men with the Minoltas come swarmin' around when they hear the heir to the throne is locked in a steamy public embrace with Cutie Kate, his hot date, who just happens to be Mrs Queen-To-Be!!? Clean up yer act, Princey-Boy, and stop yer whingeing. No offence, Sire!?!?

■*HERE THEY ARE – Glenda's Harvest Festival Marrows!?!! (Geddit?!)*

● **Peter Fincham.** BBC One's head honcho and the genius behind *Strictly Come Dancing*!?!! How about a cha-cha-cha with me, Big Boy, and I'll do the strict bit!?! Geddit?! and here's my marks for performance!?! 10... 10... 10!?! Geddit?!? and don't you worry about faking it, Peter – we all do it!?! Know what I mean!!?! (Geddit?!)

**Byeeee!!!**

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the over-running of the Peter Fincham item there is no room to list any more of Ms Slagg's Harvest Festival Marrows. We apologise to those disappointed not to be mentioned on the list, including Bill Clinton (Mmmmr President!?!), Avram Grant (Shalommmmmm!?!) and Mmmmmichael Owen (Talk about fit!?! He's scored again!?!)*

*There will be an internal enquiry into how the names were left off the list which will reveal that the Glenda Slagg feature is outsourced by Private Eye to RDF Media (Rubbish Dross Fakes) and is not the responsibility of Private Eye Worldwide plc.*

*Tomorrow, however, the Controller of Private Eye Features (Vision), Mr Peter Fallguy, will decide to be forced to resign. Lord Gnome will announce that lessons have been learned and new guidelines implemented etc. etc.*

## TV Highlights

***ITV And Me* presented by Stephen Fry.**

*BBC2 Fryday 2 October*

AS PART of Fry Week on BBC2, this documentary sees Stephen Fry looking at the alarming spread of programmes starring himself across all the channels – "not just in the predictable BBC community but into mainstream ITV too."

## ANNE'S DIVORCE SADNESS

# PRIME MINISTERIAL DECREE NO.6

## From the Desk of the Supreme Leader

**Comrades,**

Let me begin by reassuring you that there will no unnecessary election to disrupt the ongoing Three Year Plan. So much for the froth and speculation cynically stirred up by the subversive capitalist media (except for the sections owned by friends of the Party) who tried to suggest that I was looking for a democratic mandate for the Age of Change.

Nothing could be further from the truth when I already know that the people are entirely behind my vision for Britian and regard the degenerate Etonite-Bullingdon-Cameronism with utter contempt and derision.

If mistakes were made in the Party's non-election strategy then the blame must rest for these failings of inexperience and over-enthusiasm on the junior apparatchiks Comrade Alexandrovitch and Comrade Ballsoff who will be submitting themselves to a term of voluntary re-education in the fundamental tenets of New Old New Labour Thinking as explained by the Father of the Nation, Uncle Gordon.

So I will now turn to the key issues confronting the British nation, the first of which is the enormous success of the XCIVth Party Congress at Brighton where delegates made a decisive break with the stage-managed rituals of the era of Blairite-Campbellian cult of the personality.

In the place of the tired cliches of discredited spin-ism, I was able to spearhead a new spirit of honesty and democratic truthfulness in keeping with the Age of Change.

And the thousands of delegates showed their appreciation by breaking into spontaneous applause, jumping to their feet and singing a rousing chorus of 'The Red Flag' with its new words which had been helpfully handed out to delegates along with their security passes and compulsory 'I ♥ GB Badges'. For the record, the lyrics now read as follows:

*"The People's Flag is deepest Brown,*
*He promises he won't let you down,*
*So wave it high up in the air,*
*Unlike in the days of the discredited former leader*
*Comrade Blair"*

I would personally like to pay tribute to all those delegates who sang this traditional party anthem so fervently in the new spirit of fraternalistic Brownism. I look forward to next year's congress, whose motions you can now find on the website *www.ageofchange.co.uk*

As you know, your leader has had a very busy schedule repairing the damage to Britain by the former regime and the incorrect ideologies of Dubyaite-Rumsfeldism. Our heroic British troops (whom, incidentally, I mentioned a record two times in the course of my three-hour speech to the congress) were sent on a fruitless and costly adventure of imperialist aggression by the former leader, against the wishes of his colleagues who were told nothing of his secret plans to invade a friendly nation. This week I was able in person to go to Iraq and tell our British Forces that they would be home by Christmas – except the ones who had to stay. It was immensely heartening for me, as Supreme Commander, to give them this good news and they showed their gratitude in the traditional army way by remaining silent and only cheering when I got on the plane home five minutes later.

Comrades, what a contrast this humble, spontaneous visit by myself makes to the grotesque, self-glorifying, publicity-seeking posturing of the former leader as he sought to gain personal political capital by strutting like a vain peacock before the world's cameras. The pictures printed below tell their own story.

In the first, the troops are clearly bored and unimpressed by the cynical posing of their visitor. In the second the troops' eyes are shining with enthusiasm for the Age of Change, their lives enlightened with promise and hope, knowing that they will return to Britain in five years' time to a land fit for heroes, thanks to the inspired vision and determined hard work of the Supreme Leader.

Yours fraternally,

Gordon Brown

The Supreme Leader

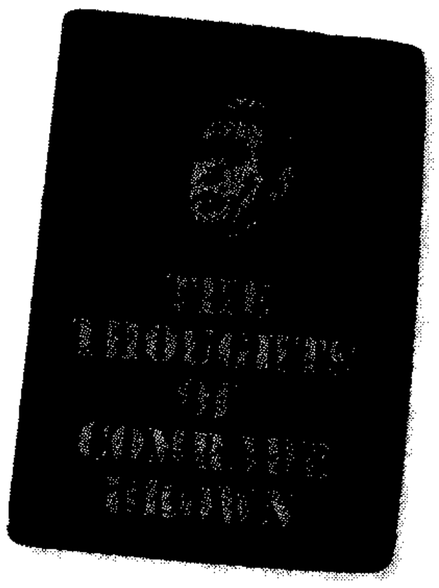
## SHOW TRIAL

I salute the courage of Comrade Quentin Davies (seen here) who publicly confessed to the congress that he had been brainwashed and led astray by the lies of bourgeois DuncanSmithHowardism and wished to recant all his former views and to express further his deep gratitude to the Supreme Leader for accepting him into the Brotherhood of the Age of Change.

So contrite was new Comrade Davies that he frequently broke down in tears as he read out the words I had helped him to write. **G.B.**

## *"The Age of Change Means No Change"*

*Taken from the Little Brown Book, Chapter 94, 'The Democratic Imperative'*



**EXCLUSIVE TO ALL NEWSPAPERS**

# Mr David Cameron
## An Apology

**IN COMMON with all other newspapers we may have given the impression that Mr David Cameron, the leader of the Opposition, was in some way a born loser, a man of straw and a busted flush who had no genuine convictions and who would be no match for the experienced statesman Mr Gordon Brown in a General Election. Headlines such as "New Gaffe By Useless Cameron", "Another U-Turn By Flip-Flopping Twit" and "Simon Heffer Says Cameron Is Washed Up" may have reinforced readers' perception that we believed Mr Cameron was a less than effective leader of the Conservative Party.**

**Following his speech at the annual Tory conference at Blackpool, we now realise that Mr Cameron is in fact a towering political figure – a world statesman to rank alongside such illustrious Tories as Sir Winston Churchill, William Gladstone and Demosthenes.**

**We further accept unreservedly that, had there been a General Election, Mr Cameron would have won by a landslide and would have become the Best Prime Minister since *(You've done this bit. Ed.)***

# Mr Gordon Brown
## An Apology

**IN COMMON with all other newspapers we may have given the impression that Mr Gordon Brown was a towering political figure who, unlike his predecessor, was a man of solid principle whose position as Prime Minister was unassailable and who would easily win any contest he chose to call.**

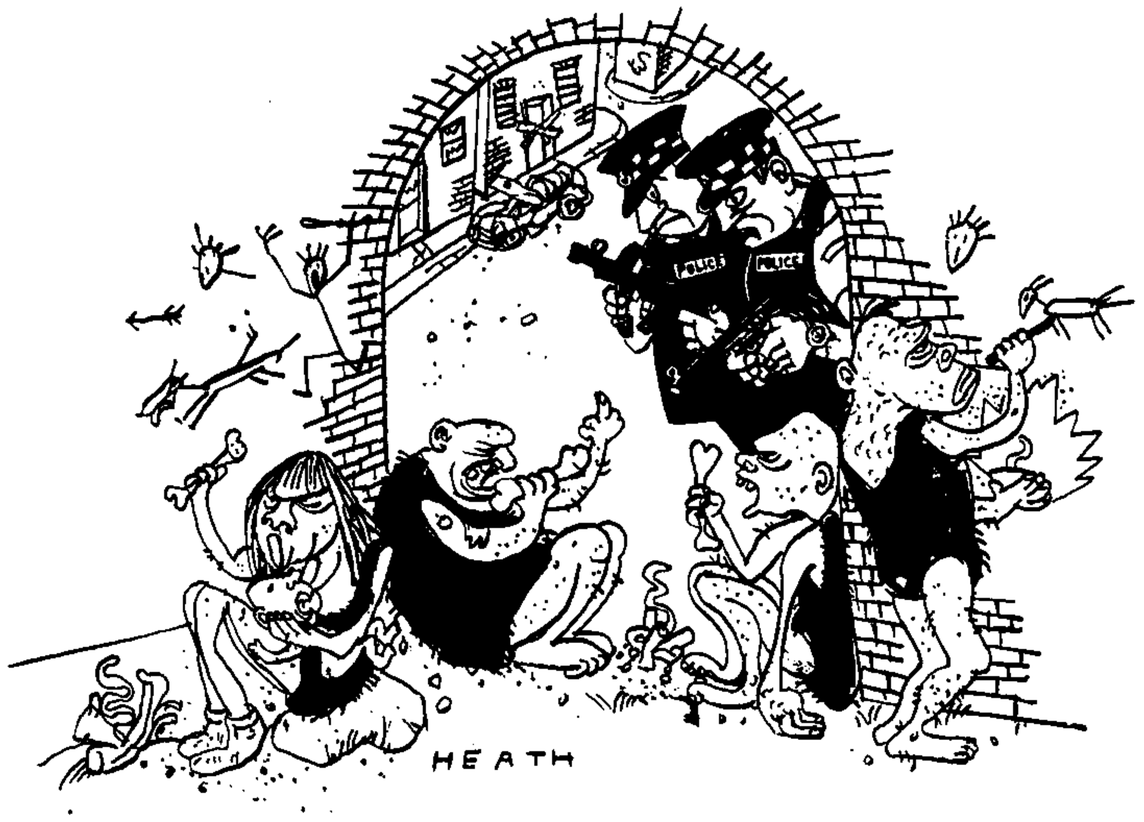
**We now realise that there was not a jot or scintilla of truth in any of the above. We are happy to make it clear that Mr Brown is in fact a weak, shifty, dishonest, spin-crazed incompetent who is even worse than Blair. If there had been an election tomorrow he would not have won a single seat.**

**We apologise for any confusion our earlier reports may have caused.**

***ON OTHER PAGES: The English Rugby Team – An Apology, Lewis Hamilton – An Apology, etc etc.***

**NEWPORT FREE GRAMMER SCHOOL**
**Specialist Language College**
*Advertisement, Walden Local*

**Your wedding**
Celebrate this suspicious occasion with Hyatt Regency Surabaya.
*Hyatt Regency Hotel, Indonesia*



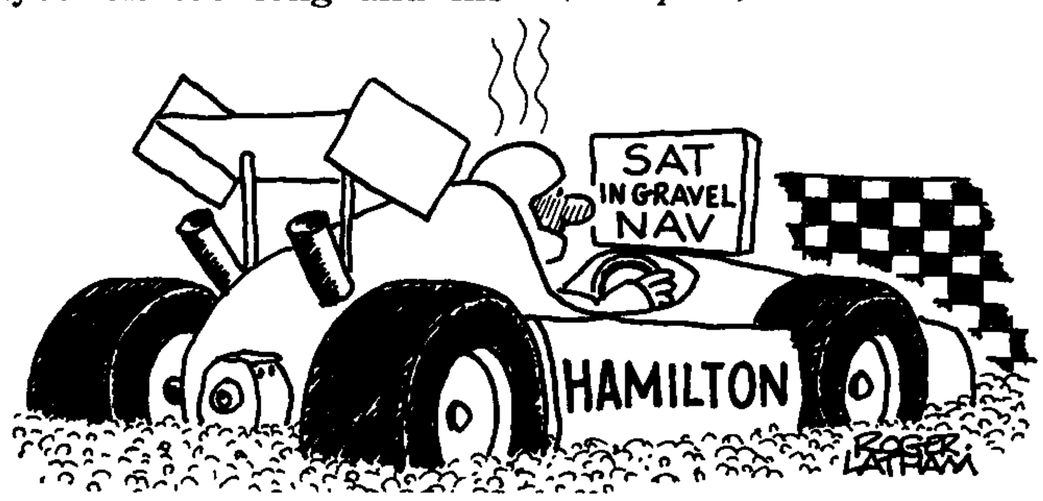

*"Life on the estate has become pretty primitive!"*

# FAVOURITE IN RACE CRASHES OUT

by Our Formula One Staff **Bernie Ecclescake**

THE MAN tipped to be champion last night saw his title hopes dashed when he stayed on too long and his wheels fell off.

Mr Gordon Brown ended up heading for the pits after spinning *(cont. p. 94)*




# The Genius That Was Ned Twinky

**by Sir Gerald Kaufman**

NO ONE had a greater ability to spot talent than Ned Twinky. The first time I submitted a script to his legendary TV programme TW3, he saw at once how brilliant it was and immediately hired me to write all the best things in the show. Who can ever forget my mould-breaking attack on the then Under Secretary at the Ministry of Health, Reginald Weems-Barkworth, or my coruscating satire on the resignation of Sir Maurice Barnstaple from his seat in Bradford and Bingley North sung, of course, by Millicent Martin, who later confided in me that it was the best thing she had ever sung in her whole life. But perhaps Ned's greatest achievement came when he rang me up to tell me how *(cont. p. 94)*

**On Other Pages:** *The Ned Twinky Who Knew Me* by Everyone Else

# Nursery Times

Friday, October 12, 2007


## 'HEADS MUST ROLL' Says Queen of Hearts

by Our Wonderland Correspondents
**Michael White-Rabbit** and **Roy Mad Hattersley**
*Photos by Alice Liebovitz*

THE Queen of Hearts last night gave an official statement on the so-called 'Crowngate Affair'. "Off with his head!" she said, reacting angrily to a suggestion that she was in a bit of a huff about having her picture drawn by Sir John Tenniel. Palace insiders said the Queen was furious at being depicted in a bad mood and *(cont. p. 94)*

**Queen seen walking backwards out of portrait sitting**

● **Cinderella Enquiry** *New pictures of coach driving away. Was the footman drunk?*

*"And would you believe it, he's still snoring"*


Advertisement

**New From The Royal Mail**

A commemorative stamp to mark the occasion of the 2007 Postal Strike

Stick this stamp on any letter and we guarantee that it won't arrive before Christmas

***ROYAL MAIL***
***Delivering Business To Our Competitors***


## New Train Fares Made Simple

**Old system**

| | |
|---|---|
| SINGLE | **£47.65** |
| SAVER RETURN | **£47.70** |
| SUPER SAVER RETURN | **£41.50** |
| EXTRA SUPER DOOPER RETURN | **£31.50** |
| WEEKENDER | **£51.50** |
| BUSINESS SAVER | **£863.50** |
| STANDARD OPEN RETURN | **£101.00** |
| APEX RETURN | **£90.00** |
| SUPER APEX RETURN | **£59.00** |
| FIRST SAVER RETURN | **£125.00** |
| FIRST OPEN RETURN | **£142.00** |

**New system**

| | |
|---|---|
| ALL SINGLES | **£999.99** |
| ALL RETURNS | **£1,999.99** |

## MODERN NURSERY RHYMES

Postman Pat,
Postman Pat,
Postman Pat and
His wildcat strike.

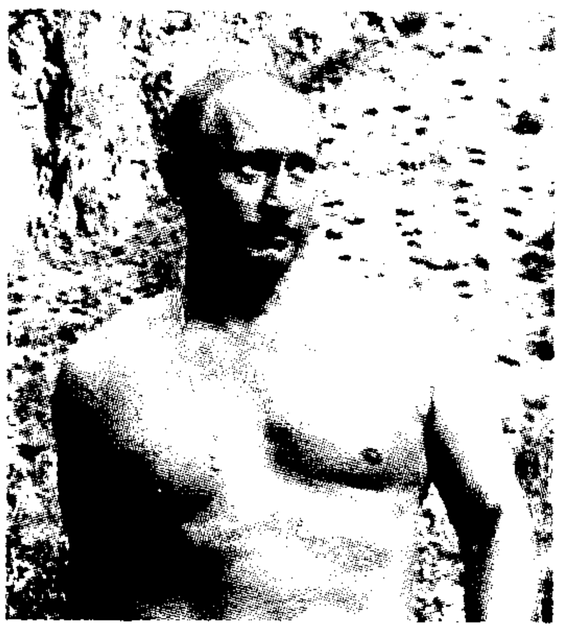
Early in the morning,
Just as day is dawning,
He turns over and says
I'm not getting out of bed for
this money.

*NEXT WEEK: Postman Pat gets the sack.*

THE BROON-ITES
DINNAE FASH GORDON. WHO CARES IF YON SCUNNER CAMERON CAN GAB WITH NAE NOTES OR AUTOCUE?
PUFF
PUFF
JOCKSHIRE POST
CAMERON GIVES BROON A DOSE O' LALDY
BLAH BLAH BLAH
AYE!
YE CAN BE JUST AS SPONTANEOUS AS THAT WEE BAMPOT!
BROON ALE
YE'H THA' MOST SPONTANEOUS BEASTIE IN THE FOREST, GORDON, AH'LL TELL YE THAT FER NUTHIN'!
ANGRY PUFF
AYE!
ANGRIER PUFF
BITE
CHEW
BROON ALE
AH MEAN, WHEN YE DITHERED OVER THE E.R.M, OOT OR IN, AND NAEBODY KNEW WHAT YE'D DAE! THAT'S SPONTANEOUS!
WHEN YE DITHERED OVER KNIFIN' THE SCUNNER BLAIR FOR TEN YEARS! THAT'S SPONTANEOUS!
AND NOW YER DITHERIN' OVER THE ELECTION DATE. THAT'S...
HOOTS, CRIVVENS AND HOOTS AGAIN!
BROON ALE
HENRY DAVIES
JOCKSHIRE TERRIER TITTERS

**THEN**

**NOW**



# PUTIN TO RUN FOR CZAR

VLADIMIR PUTIN has confirmed that when he stands down as Russian president next year he plans to run for the lesser post of Czar.

"The position of Czar will be largely ceremonial and will consist of me ruling over all of Russia for all time," said President *(cont. p. 94)*

## EXCLUSIVE TO ALL NEWSPAPERS

# WHY DO MIDDLE-AGED MEN RISK EVERYTHING TO WATCH BILLIE PIPER?

**by Belle de Mooney**

It's an all too familiar story. It's the dead of night, the wife is safely tucked up in bed, thinking her husband is working late. But the seedy reality is that he is crawling through the channels to find ITV2 – and cheap gratification in the form of Billie Piper.

### Belle de Bore

If he is caught, he knows he will invite ridicule and shame. He knows his protestations that it is "an adaptation of a book that was highly praised in the Independent" will cut no ice.

Instead, he will be revealed for what he is – a pathetic, lonely figure, desperately hoping to get a glimpse of the former Dr Who star in her knickers.

Sexperts agree that it is actually the danger of getting caught that drives these men to say, " Well, the production values were very high and it was a satisfyingly post-modern take on the whole soft porn genre" *(cont. p. 69)*

**DAILY EXPRESS**
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER
FRIDAY OCTOBER 12, 2007

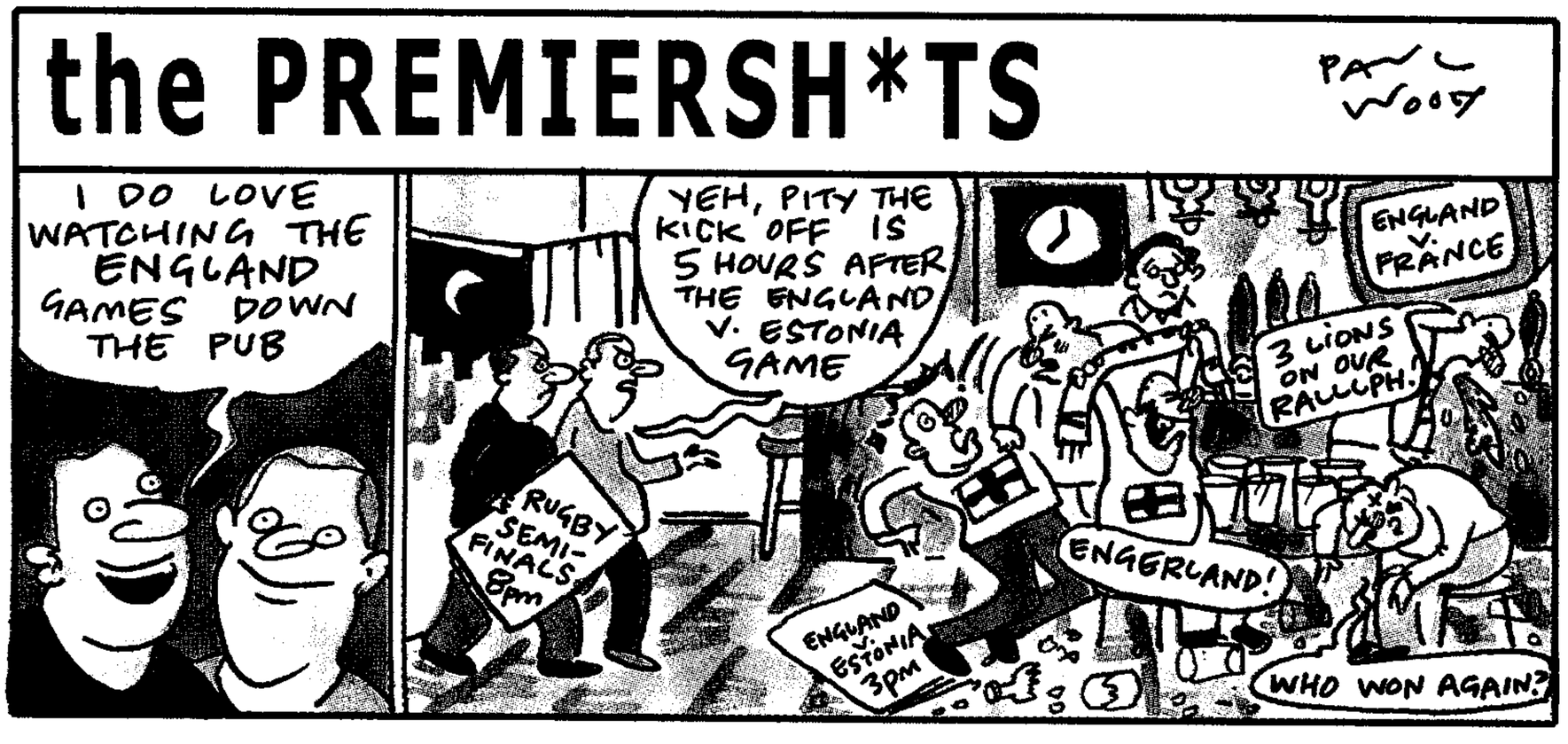
# MADDY – NEW THEORY
# Was She Abducted By Duke of Edinburgh?

By our Conspiracy Staff
**Phillipa Front-Page**

**THE FIRST day of the Diana inquest has produced a startling new theory from top forensic expert Mohamed Al-Fayed. Fayed called for the entire Royal family to be placed in the witness box and forced to account for their movements on the night Maddy disappeared.**

A vital new witness, known only as Mr M. Al F. claims he saw Prince Phillips driving a white Fiat Uno over the border into Spain *(cont. p. 94)*

# the PREMIERSH*TS


PAUL WOOD
I DO LOVE WATCHING THE ENGLAND GAMES DOWN THE PUB
YEH, PITY THE KICK OFF IS 5 HOURS AFTER THE ENGLAND V. ESTONIA GAME
RUGBY SEMI-FINALS 8pm
ENGLAND V. ESTONIA 3PM
ENGLAND V. FRANCE
3 LIONS ON OUR RALLYPH!
ENGGRLAND!
WHO WON AGAIN?

# POETRY CORNER

**In Memoriam Miss Moneypenny, Star of the James Bond films.**

So. Farewell
Then
Miss Moneypenny.

You sat
Outside M's office.

And said,
"M wants to
See you
Urgently, James."

Yes. That was your
Catchphrase.

All together
Now –

"Dum di-di-di dum-dum
Dum.
Dum di-di-di dum-dum
Dum.
Dum di-di-di dum-dum
Dum.
DA-da. Da da da."

E.J. Thribb (0017½)

**In Memoriam Ronnie Hazlehurst**

So. Farewell
Then. Ronnie
Hazlehurst.

Master of the
TV theme tune.

Yes, we
Remember them all –

*Reggie Perrin, Are You Being Served?, Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em.*

*To The Manor Born, Yes Minister, The Two Ronnies.*

And, of course,
*Blankety Blank.*

All together now –

"Blankety Blank
Blankety Blank"
Etc.

E.J. Thribb (17½)

● To celebrate National Poetry Day, 4 October 2007, we are publishing two poems by E.J. Thribb from his recent collection *The Nights Are Drawing In* (Cape £17.99).

# THAT LONDON MAYORAL ELECTION MANIFESTO IN FULL

by The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, OE

**As I** cycle around London, or rather I don't because some rotten oik has stolen my bike, I hear some of you chaps (and chapesses, of course) yelling at me, "Oi Boris! We can't take you seriously. You're just a joke!"

Well, hang on a minute! Just because Boris likes to have a laugh doesn't mean he hasn't got a first-rate brain ticking away under his cycle helmet!

Take houses, for example. There's loads of them in London and some of them are jolly expensive. Fair enough. That way you keep out the riff-raff – just the sort of coves who go round stealing a chap's bike when he's left it outside some totty's house when he's popped round for a spot of electioneering! Jolly unfair, what? That's the sort of problem old Boris is going to get *serious* about! You see! So watch out, Ken!

And not just Ken! What about that Lib Dem they are putting up against me? Commander Paddick – Britain's top gay cop.

Now let me make it jolly clear that I've got nothing against gay policemen. But crikey! We can't have a bent copper as Mayor, can we? Blimey! London would be a laughing stock – unlike if it chose Yours Truly!

Abyssina!!

Boris

## Here's some more of my Cockney rhyming slang!

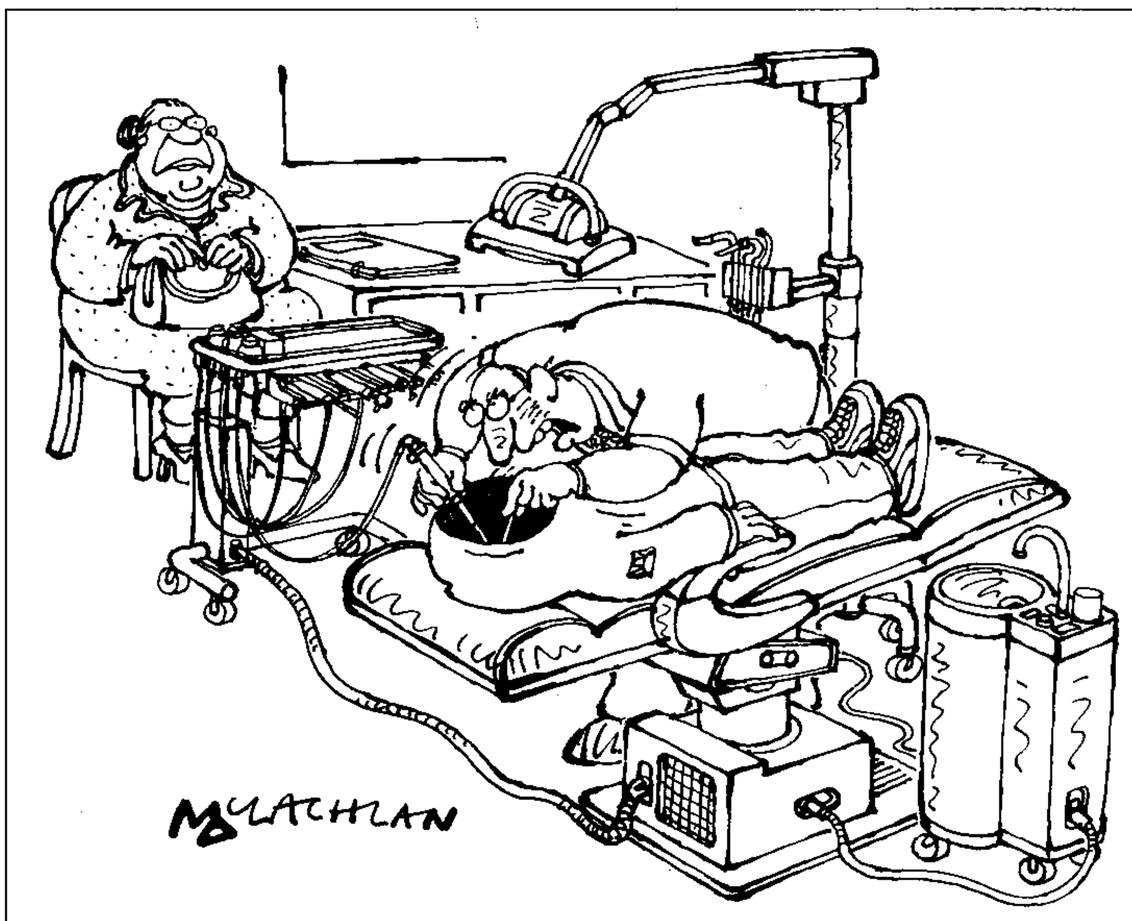
**Doing the Knowledge** – *Eton College*

**'ale and 'arty** – *Spectator party*

**Big Ben** – *Goodbye Ken*

**Rose & Crown** – *Trousers down*

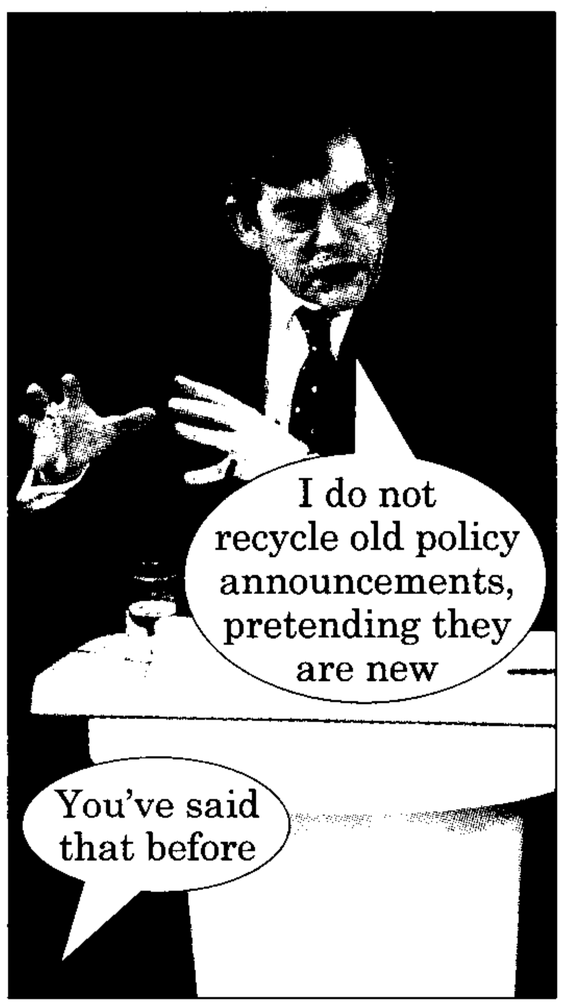
**Dog & Duck** – *Afternoon tea*

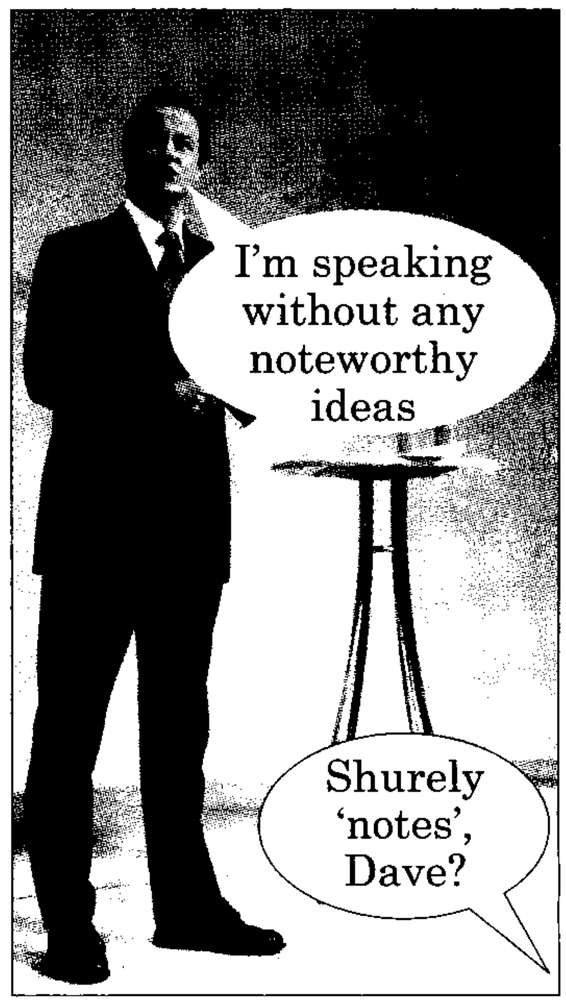



*"I'd get on a lot better if you could persuade your Darren to remove his hood, Mrs Spongthorpe"*

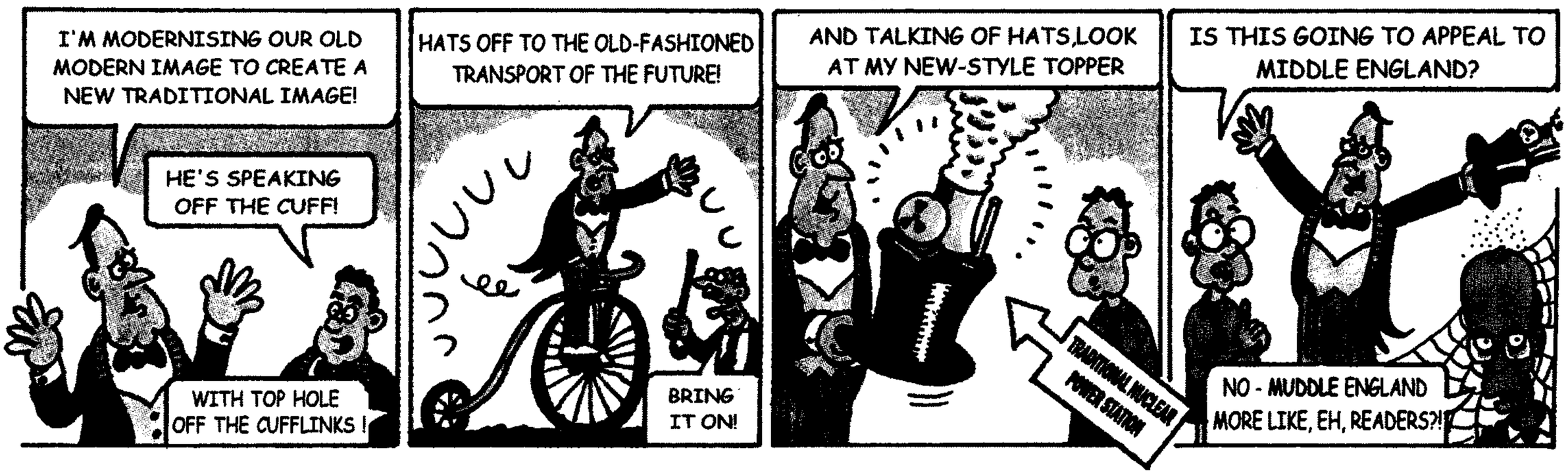
CONFERENCE SPECIAL

# THE LEADERS' SPEECHES



# *Dave Snooty* AND HIS PALS


I'M MODERNISING OUR OLD MODERN IMAGE TO CREATE A NEW TRADITIONAL IMAGE!
HE'S SPEAKING OFF THE CUFF!
WITH TOP HOLE OFF THE CUFFLINKS !
HATS OFF TO THE OLD-FASHIONED TRANSPORT OF THE FUTURE!
BRING IT ON!
AND TALKING OF HATS,LOOK AT MY NEW-STYLE TOPPER
TRADITIONAL NUCLEAR POWER STATION
IS THIS GOING TO APPEAL TO MIDDLE ENGLAND?
NO - MUDDLE ENGLAND MORE LIKE, EH, READERS?!

Exclusive To All Newspapers

# DIANA WAS STILL ALIVE HOURS BEFORE SHE DIED

A SERIES of previously unseen CCTV images have revealed that Diana was alive and well before she was tragically killed in Paris, ten years ago.

**INSIDE** ● Do you think Diana is dead? Or have you seen her in Morocco? Call now: 0900 000 0000. If not, call: 0900 000 0000. Calls cost *(cont. p .94)*

*"I warned you that celebrity can be a double-edged sword"*

Daily Mail

# THE QUESTIONS THAT MUST BE ANSWERED

1. Did the Queen warn Diana that she was going to be assassinated by MI6?
2. Why did none of the CCTV cameras in the tunnel record the presence of the Loch Ness Monster on the fateful night?
3. Why did driver Henri Paul take a route through Paris via Monaco?
4. Why are there only eleven members of the Jury – has one been murdered by Prince Philip?
5. Why are we running all this stuff when we know that it's complete rubbish?

THESE are the questions that must be answered over the course of the next six months if the Princess is ever to rest in peace, free from the intrusive speculation of the media.

IN THE COURTS

## Inquest into the death of the late Diana, Princess of Wales (Day One)

**Mr Justice Scott-Carrot**: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury. Before we hear any evidence it is my duty to tell you that we are not here to find guilt or to attribute blame.

**Mr Fayed**: Yes, we fuggin' well are.

**Scott-Carrot**: Mr Hugefee, will you kindly prevail upon your client to be silent. He will have ample opportunity later to accuse the Duke of Edinburgh of murder.

**Mr Hugefee** *(for Mr Fugger)*: My Lord, my client is an emotional man who after ten long years is still suffering from the effects of lunacy... I am sorry, My Lord, that should have read "grief". I was looking at the wrong bundle. Is it to be wondered at that he occasionally allows his strong feelings to get the better of him?

**Scott-Carrot**: I am indebted to you, Mr Hugefee, for your lengthy and costly peroration on the origin of Mr Fugger's mental imbalance. Now, if we may continue...

Members of the jury, you may, may you not, have heard the name Princess Diana before – possibly on the televisual device or possibly in the pages of *Hello!* magazine which your wife may have brought home from the dentist, might she not?

But it is my duty to impress upon you that you must eradicate from your memory any image, thought or preconception you may have concerning this unfortunate lady who died in a simple car crash.

**Mr Hugefee**: My Lord, with the greatest respect, I must object – you cannot prejudge this complex issue which we should be able to spin out for at least six months at the appropriate remunerative rate.

*(The other thirty lawyers seated behind Mr Hugefee all begin to cheer and wave their chequebooks)*

**Lawyers**: Hear! Hear!

**Scott-Carrot**: Gentlemen, I stand corrected. The case is, as you say, far from reaching a clear-cut conclusion or *Res certificatum.*

*(Jury look blank).*

Members of the jury. I come now to the various conspiracy theories that I have just asked you to banish from your minds. They are the work, you may think, of Mr Fugger, who you may have seen in the pages of the *Daily Express* and you may well have formed the impression that this gentleman is quite obviously off his rocker. If that is what you rightly think, I must again ask you to banish such thoughts from your mind until the time comes, in maybe six months or so, to bring in a verdict of accidental death.

**Fayed**: Fuggin' Judge! You're working for fuggin' MI6! You're related to Prince Fuggin' Philip!

**Mr Hugefee** *(sotto voce)*: Mr Fugger, I beg you pray silence until His Lordship calls you to the witness box or else he might despatch you to prison where it would be difficult, nay impossible, for you to hand over to me the large brown envelopes full of used notes which form such an important part of our case.

**Scott-Carrot**: I feel this may be an appropriate time to break for luncheon. Members of the jury, we have had a busy few minutes, have we not, and you may now adjourn. However, I must warn you that once you leave this court you must talk to no one and you will be taken from this place by armed police officers to the nearby McDonalds restaurant, where I am informed you may eat the following items should you so wish: One Big Mac. One portion French Fries. One Shake.

**Fayed**: I'm not a fuggin' sheikh – I'm the owner of Harrods.

*(The case continues)*

# DIARY

## RONNIE WOOD

It was my old mate Keith Richards' birthday. Keith's very particular when it comes to his birthday so I bought him this fuckin' great oil painting, trees, clouds, a horse, the lot, and fuckin' pricy it was too.

I burst into his hotel suite. He's ever so diligent, is Keith. He was halfway through his target practice. The chandelier was already shot to pieces, there was bits of curtain all over the fuckin floor, and he was ready to get to work on the telly.

"Happy Birthday, Keith, old mate," I said. "I got you a Constable".

"You fuckin' what?" said Keith, pitching into the bathroom and locking the door.

"Only a John fuckin' Constable. It's an oil painting, mate. Trees and that," I called through the keyhole. "Cost a fuckin' fortune."

"Fuck, mate, you had me worried there," he said, opening the door. "I thought you'd brought in the Old Bill."

So we had a good laugh and he soon recovered 'cos he drew out his gun and scored a bullseye first shot, hitting the horse's head clean off even though it was only this big. Get yer ya yas out, mate! Let's rock!

We had a private Boeing 720, dubbed Supergalactic Sticky Starship, which had bedrooms, lounge, video library, swimming pool with a body in it, bar, Chateau Petrus on ice, toiletfuls of caviar and loads of naked ladies running up and down the aisles.

Mick was furious 'cos it didn't have a croquet lawn like he'd specifically ordered, but I said, look, mate, let's rock, you can't have everything and he said, can, and I said, can't.

It was the Seventies, which came straight after the Sixties, if memory serves. No wonder we was depressed. After the Sixties, we was all a bit down, because it was the Seventies. I found out it was the Seventies 'cos at one end of the Boeing, there was this Hell's Angel in leathers on a fucking ginormous bike wielding a snooker cue and lookin' mean.

"What you doin' 'ere, mate?" I asked him.

"It's the Seventies," he explained.

"Jeez. That's a bummer," I said.

But we didn't have to wait too long before it was the Eighties. And some of the things we got up to in the Eighties! Don't ask me what, 'cos they went in a flash, and then it was the Nineties.

You never hear about the Nineties, do you? But they must have happened, because it's now two thousand and whatever, and it's literally been YEARS since it was the Sixties.

Years ago, when I was like 18, I was going out with this chick who'd had a whole lot of hit records. What was her name? Right first time, mate: Gracie Fields.

Jeez, Gracie knew how to make a guy happy. Wooh! Let's rock! But eventually we went and split up owing to musical differences, which was a downer. I was playing lead for Russ Conway, and one night we're onstage, Russ is in the middle of The Moonlight Fuckin Sonata and he leans over and he says, Woodie, there's two chicks waiting in my dressing room backstage, howsabout we share 'em both between us? So we wound up the Moonlight Sonata pretty damned sharpish, and had a right old ya ya in Russ's dressing-room, I can tell you. One of the chicks was only Dame fuckin' Edith Evans, 'least she said she was. I'd had a few of the old drinkeroonis, so it wasn't long before I was sick into her handbag. Yeah!

Joining the Stones was this big thing for me. Rock 'n' Roll! Wooh! They was like no other band. For one thing, I discovered quickly that there's a lot of talking on stage. Charlie's the only one who keeps his mouth shut, 'cos he's usually deep in a book. Keith and me, we rap a bit, blah blah blah, passing the time of day while Mick's poncin' about up front. I say to Keith, jeez check out those tits, chick second row from the front, and he says to me, what you fuckin' saying?, 'cos all that noise has made him hard of hearing.

But mostly it's Mick shouting, "What the fuck was that?" if someone has hit a duff note and then he docks us some cash. But often it's Mick boogying on down to the second keyboards to check how things are panning out with our head honcho, the accountant. He's the guy in the wig behind what looks like the second keyboards but in fact, it's this giant kinda calculator thing what helps him tot up the receipts for the day's takings.

Before we go on, the staff issue us with a print-out of the numbers we'll be playing, all neatly typed out in the right order and in nice big letters, so we don't have to get our specs out. We do all the numbers the customers know and love, then we maybe sneak in a couple of new ones from the last thirty years as a kind of breather, so people can get to the toilets and that. Let's rock!

The World Tour's been going great, or so Mick's accountants are telling us, bless their cotton socks. Are we still on it? Are we? Can't remember. You'll have to ask me manager. Wooh!

Fave city? Scandinavia. Those Russians sure know how to boogie! Japan's not too bad either. For those of you who's never been there, it's in China.

Being a Rolling Stone, I've travelled all over the world. Taj Mahal, Big Wall of Wherever, the lot. Seen the Grand Canyon a few times. Didn't seem that grand to me – not a red carpet or ice bucket in sight.

Me and Keith, we're old mates, like brothers we are, but put it this way, we have our ups and downs. In the old days, when Keith was shagging Anita Pallenburg – not many laughs there, very German – and I was going out with wassername, posh bird in gloves, big tits, Queen's sister, that's it, Princess Margaret, or was it her Mum, I said to him in the Connaught corridor, I gave him a big wink and said, "'ere Keith, why don't you go in my room and I go in yours, for a bit of 'ow's-yer-father, each with the other's bird?"

That gone and done it. Keith broke the bottle he was holding and came straight at my face. I turned round and punched him on the hooter and then in the stomach. He cut me with the bottle and stormed out. I'm stood there bleeding all over the carpet, Mick comes along. "You've upset my lead guitarist," he says.

"I never," I says. But Mick's hoppin' mad. Says he's putting me off drugs for a week, and as a further punishment I've got to play Satisfaction fifty times over.

"That's SO unfair," I say.

"That's so unfair SIR," he says.

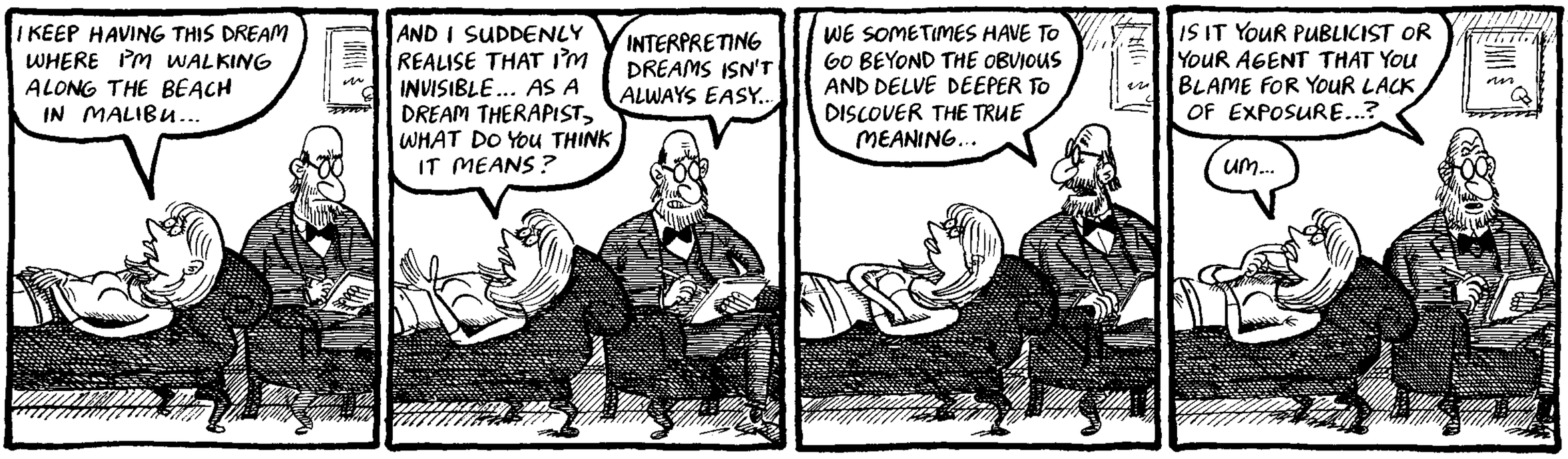
"That's so unfair sir," I say.

But I get on and do it, because me and Keith are mates, and life in the Stones is so fuckin' free and groovy, maan, just like it was in the Sixties. Let's ROOOOOCK!

*As told to*

CRAIG BROWN




I KEEP HAVING THIS DREAM WHERE I'M WALKING ALONG THE BEACH IN MALIBU...
AND I SUDDENLY REALISE THAT I'M INVISIBLE... AS A DREAM THERAPIST, WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS?
INTERPRETING DREAMS ISN'T ALWAYS EASY..
WE SOMETIMES HAVE TO GO BEYOND THE OBVIOUS AND DELVE DEEPER TO DISCOVER THE TRUE MEANING...
IS IT YOUR PUBLICIST OR YOUR AGENT THAT YOU BLAME FOR YOUR LACK OF EXPOSURE...?
UM...

# Literary Review

## Trying on Clark's shoes

**House Music: The Oona King Diaries**
Oona King
*(Bloomsbury, £12.99)*

ALL political careers end in failure, but a lot of them these days also end in diaries. In among much useful advice to putative MPs, it's surprising that Oona King has not suggested: "For God's sake write a diary. It'll help with cashflow when everything goes pear-shaped."

For her own diary appears at a crucial juncture as she attempts to transform her eight years as a Labour MP, cruelly ended by Gorgeous George Galloway in 2005, into a more lasting and lucrative media career. Something has to fill the yawning void created by electoral defeat. Obviously these diaries have managed the job so far.

"Editing" them has clearly taken some time and a lot of work. If we can imagine a sort of Veracity Index for diaries, with Alan Clark's terrifyingly candid and unadorned diaries at one end of the scale, and Piers Moron's er, imaginative hindsight at the other, Oona's would come somewhere in the middle.

There's a lot here that rings true, but it doesn't often feel like a diary: there may only be half a dozen long entries in a year, and she doesn't often do what most of us would do, which is to tell you the most exciting thing that happened first. Instead her revelations tend to creep out in the middle of an entry, a novelistic rather than a journalistic technique. This does make it a more interesting and enjoyable read, but what you gain in craft you lose in immediacy and, let's face it, believability. Which, as she makes so much of her honesty, may not work to her advantage. Spinning as well as spun against.

That said, some of the reviews of this book have demonstrated why she and other vaguely normal people so often struggle in parliamentary careers. The general consensus is that King was a failure and a lightweight, that she achieved nothing in parliament whatsoever. Of course it's never expressed in such blunt terms: it's always more sinuous and feline than that. The spirit of Francis Urquhart lives on in British politics, even if it sometimes wears the sneer of Alastair Campbell.

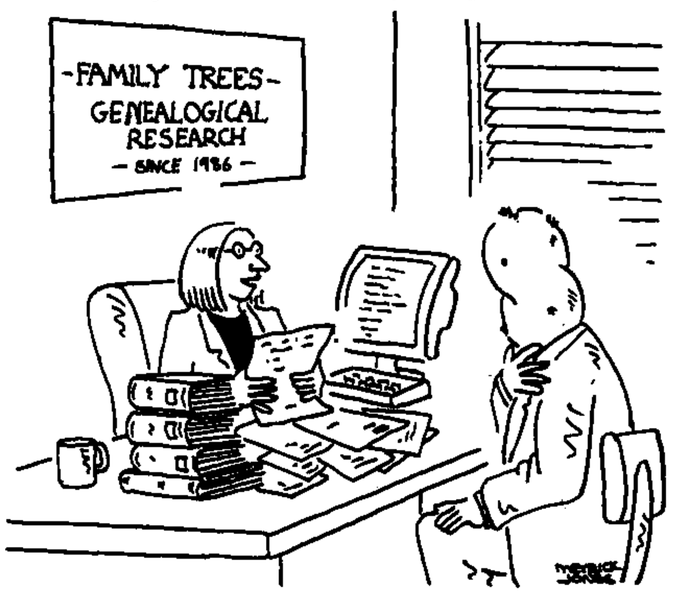
There's a great scene in here, when in the Commons she is passed a note saying "Oona King to go to the Prime Minister's office immediately". "Fucking hell, I thought, what have I done now?" – not a sentence you'd have read in Sir Norman Fowler's memoirs. But all Tony Blair and his henchpersons want her to do is write a newspaper hatchet job on Ken Livingstone, who at the time was causing them problems.

They want her in particular because she is seen to be "independent-minded" (the irony eludes them). She says: "I know it's the end of my political career, but the answer is no." And Campbell responds: "It's not the end of your political career, Oona. Just the next five years. You can go now."

You think you have been called in to see the Headmaster, but it turns out he is in cahoots with the School Bully. Even then, it's the coda to this that is most revealing. King is the vice-chair of the London Group of MPs, and they have a meeting scheduled with Tony Blair. Sally Morgan from No 10 rings up and tells her she can't come. The meeting will go ahead with the others "but I'm afraid he can't meet with you... Immigration is a highly sensitive issue. We can only have people we trust." Once you're out of favour, you are airbrushed out of existence. And they call Gordon Brown a Stalinist.

King can be a terrible show-off. She can be inconsistent and self-indulgent and prone to tell you more than you really want to know about the global troublespots she has visited. (In most photos she smiles, unless surrounded by survivors of genocides, when she looks grave.) But unusually for a politician, she seems like a person you might actually want to meet, even have a conversation with. Such people – and how often they seem to be women – are always regarded with suspicion by the political classes. Make those Milibands prefects instead. As she gradually comes to realise, she never had a chance.

*"Good news. We've discovered that you are in fact a member of the potato family"*



## Books & Bookmen

■ "BRAVE, Imaginative, Decent" is the mantra recited by Pearson boss Dame Marjorie Scardino to describe the company's values.

But even the Teflon Dame might struggle to apply those adjectives to her treatment of the Puffin Book Club (PBC), which has for many years supplied cut-price books to children and parents through links with schools, who receive a commission on the sales.

Trouble began in 2004 when Marje combined all the warehousing activities of the various Pearson book businesses at a site in Rugby ("Pearson Central") under the guidance of her fellow-American Bill Gauld, an IT manager who knew nothing about distribution or about the company's UK operations. There was a massive logjam of undelivered orders, Penguin profits tumbled and Gauld had to walk the plank, as was widely reported at the time.

Less widely noticed was the impact on the Puffin Book Club, which until then had a high reputation for service and a commanding position in the market. When the Rugby disaster struck, Pearson insisted that "key accounts" get priority, so orders for individual parents went to the bottom of the pile – leaving customers with no books and no quick way to get their money back. Schools abandoned Puffin in droves and switched to the main rival, Red House, part of The Book People group.

Since then PBC staff have worked hard to rebuild the business, winning great praise from Pearson management. This year PBC at last started to recover: prospects for the Christmas season were bang on target.

Lo and behold, a fortnight ago Pearson suddenly announced that it was selling the business to arch-rival Red House. PBC staff were told that to protect sales over the festive season they are required to stay on until Christmas – and then they will all be fired. How brave, imaginative and decent can you get?

■ NEWS stories about crusading mother Adrienne Small's fight to ban and burn children's books with unhappy endings spread like wildfire last week, with predictable outrage from the *Daily Mail* and BBC Radio 2 and even newspapers in Canada.

Small claimed to have founded the Happy Endings Foundation after her daughter became "depressed" after reading Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. However, web sleuth Sal Towse checked out the ownership of the Happy Endings Foundation website and found that it belongs to ad firm ArtScience, who have the job of promoting... *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

A further clue to the hoax is the small print disclaimer on the site that "most characters appearing in this work are fictitious". As the *Eye* went to print, none of the papers that ran the original story had retracted it.

■ YANN MARTEL, winner of the 2002 Booker prize, told fans in London last week about his first novel since *Life of Pi*.

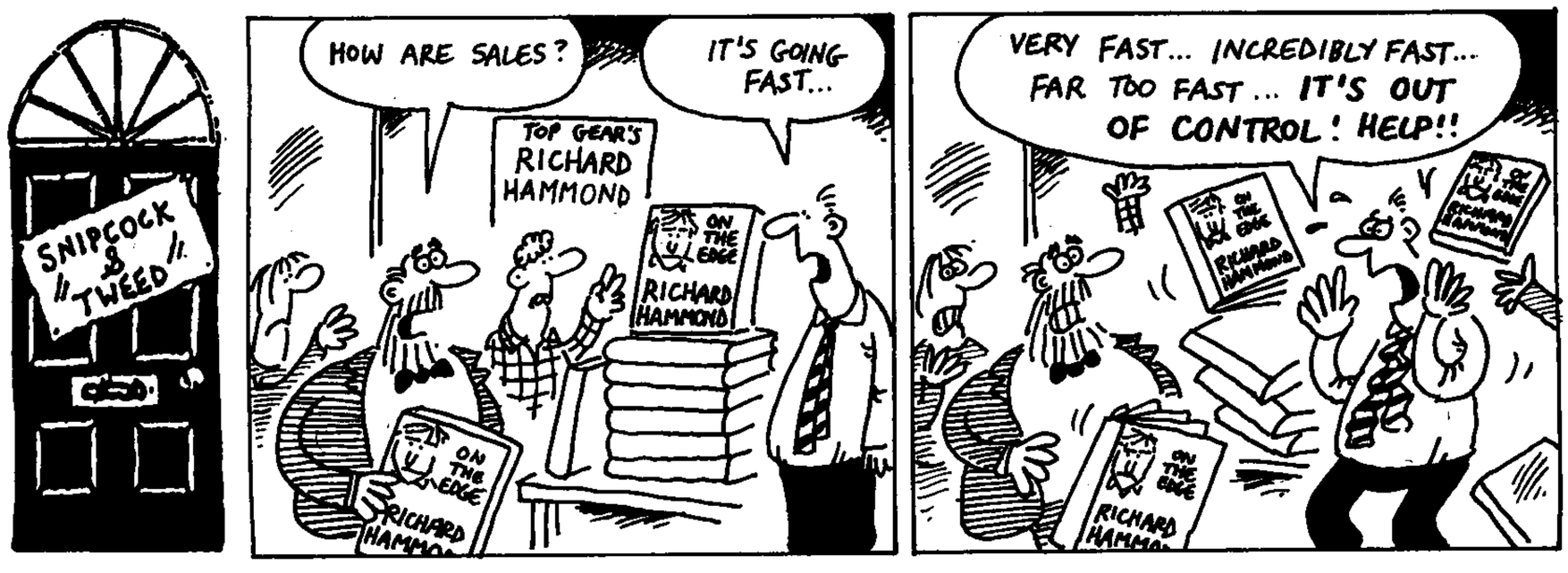
Perhaps inspired by JM Coetzee's recent tendency to mix cerebral musings with skimpy stories, it will be two things – "a novel and an essay" – in the same volume. There'll be a 120-page discussion of the Holocaust, and a non-realistic representation of it which is "set on a shirt, with a monkey and a donkey – they travel around on the shirt having philosophical conversations".

News of this was not, as one might imagine, received with unalloyed rapture at his publisher Canongate, which was hoping for a *Life of Pi II* – charming animals yes, Holocaust and interminable essay probably not.

■ THE *FT*'s recently-revamped books pages are fast becoming a weekly festival of log-rolling.

Not unexpectedly Carmen Callil, former chatelaine of Chatto, responded enthusiastically in the *Pink 'Un* to *Fire in the Blood*, the latest posthumous offering by the her old imprint's great discovery, Irene "Suite Francaise" Nemirovsky.

Nor could there be much doubt


SNIPCOCK & TWEED
HOW ARE SALES?
IT'S GOING FAST...
TOP GEAR'S RICHARD HAMMOND
ON THE EDGE
RICHARD HAMMOND
VERY FAST... INCREDIBLY FAST... FAR TOO FAST... IT'S OUT OF CONTROL! HELP!!

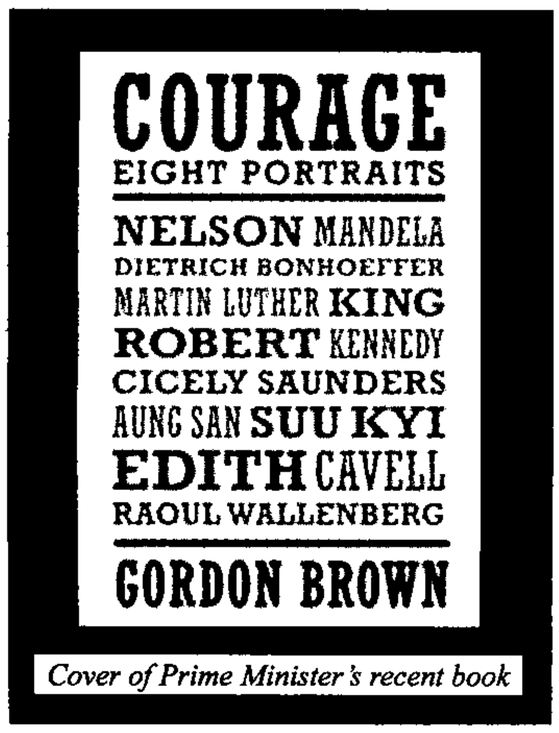
as to how Jeanette Winterson (chief books columnist of the Times) would respond to *Thames: Sacred River* by Peter Ackroyd (chief reviewer of the *Times*) – it can "be read all at once, with increasing delight", she enthused. The only surprise was the *FT*'s curious eagerness to provide the boudoir for a *Times* love-in.

■ GOOD to see someone at HarperCollins taking on board the *Eye*'s questioning of ever longer books.

Writing in the publisher's 5th Estate blog, digital editor Mark Johnson reveals that the criticism in *Eye 1192* prompted "a quick tinker" through the HarperCollins records, where he discovered that since 2000 "an average book has grown by some 45 pages", adding that competitors appear to be matching them page for page.

*'Bookworm'*

## JUST FANCY THAT




*Cover of Prime Minister's recent book*

## Private Eye's Worstseller Chart

| Position | Author | Title | Publisher | Sales to date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Lance Price | *Time And Fate* | Polperro Heritage Press | 153 |
| 2 | Martin Sixsmith | *I Heard Lenin Laugh* | Pan Macmillan | 403 |
| 3 | Bernard Ingham | *The Wages Of Spin* | John Murray | 3,345 |
| 4 | Martin Sixsmith | *Spin* | Pan Macmillan | 3,642 |
| 5 | Lance Price | *Spin Doctor's Diary* | Hodder | 9,183 |

# WHAT YOU DIDN'T MISS, Pt 94

**The Stone Gods**
Jeanette Winterson
*(Hamish Hamilton £16.99)*

GOSH, I've invented a new world!

I have, though. A whole new planet. Up there in the slanting, searing, horizon-hugging sky. What's it like? This isn't a work of realism, so let's just say that it has twigs as big as catamarans and elephants that trumpet through teakettles. Chocolate bars, dark as the soil, each the weight of an exploding galaxy. Or something.

There are a lot of capital letters in all this. M, for instance. M is for Massive, as in advance.

* * *

Hello, my name is Billie Crusoe. Yes, I *know* that comes from Defoe. Let's have another letter – I, for example, as in Inter-textual, or even B, as in Borrowed. Up here on Planet Blue I end up having sex with a lady robot called Spike. What happens? Well, the world is dark, and dark is the world. The strange thing about strangers is that you don't know who they are. She is my mouse-mat, the extra-strong mint that sets my torpid tongue aflame. Together we lurk, enmeshed, on the humid cusp of the world, marionettes teetering at the volcano's endangering edge... [*continues]* Another useful letter is D, as in Dangerously overwritten.

* * *

But I haven't told you about poor old clapped-out planet earth and all the technology that keeps it going. This includes *Beatbots*, which are a kind of cyber-traffic warden and *Nifties*, which scuttle about under the floorboards and fix your heating. Jolly clever of me to think them up, don't you agree? So let's have Q, which is for Quite good jokes, sometimes. Oh, and there are *Jeanies*, those rather irritating female novelists who over-dosed on people like Italo Calvino and Angela Carter when young and keep ruining perfectly good ideas with rather obvious digressions on the nature of storytelling. They pop up all over the place.

* * *

I thought I'd just drop in a bit of personal baggage here, and include a page or two about the manuscript of this being found on a tube-train, just like mine was when some dim little editor person at Hamish Hamilton left her bag behind her on the seat. It was in all the papers, you know.

* * *

What are stories? Stories are like roads. Sometimes they go on all straight for miles, and sometimes they have bendy-bits like coat-hangers that take you where you'd least expect. Like things with no endings, they are endless. Once upon a time there was a novelist called Jeanette, a poor girl whom all the world loved until she started writing books that were all basically the same, full of descriptions that didn't describe anything, lesbian high-jinks on the forest floor and time's snow-white clouds rolling endlessly away. This one is about saving the planet, by the way, so let's end with an R, as in Recycling.

# Pseuds Corner

I've been based in Paris for four years and I still find it exotic. I haven't learned French – I don't need to for work, and it would spoil the excitement of my alienation if I understood everything that was said.

**RICK OWENS,**
**'Perfect Weekend',** ***Financial Times***

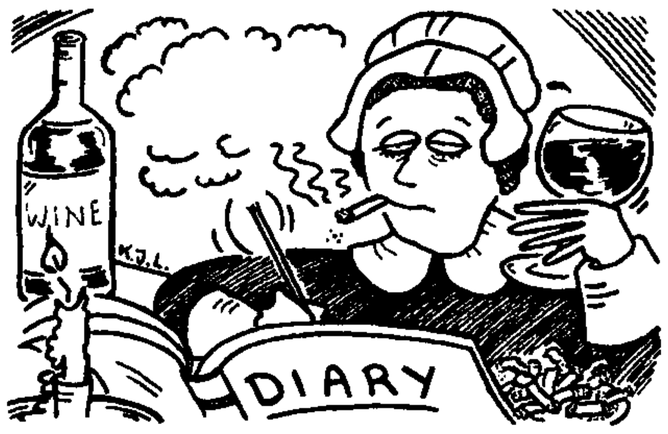
**He was named man of the match and the vote must have been the most foregone conclusion since the Reform Act of 1832 disenfranchised rotten boroughs.**

**MARTIN SAMUEL on the England vs Russia soccer match,** ***The Times***

*I have mentioned before about the importance of having a settled side and an equally important rank structure within it. We as animals are more comfortable in its familiarity. The squad has been seriously affected over the past couple of years due to injury, changes and form, but no more so over the past week. In the absence of a settled society, history has shown that law and order break down, the social hierarchy constantly changes, organisation disintegrates and eventually the tribe fragments. In desperate times, humans will call for desperate measures so the quickest and most natural successor to emerge in times of chaos is usually in the form of one voice – a sole decision-maker with a clear and precise vision for people to follow. 1790s France and 1920s Russia spring to mind.*

**JOSH LEWSEY on the defeat of the England rugby XV by South Africa,** ***Sunday Times***

Bunyan signalled the beginning of an epic Puritan tradition of literature which would culminate, via Daniel Defoe, Samuel Richardson and George Eliot, in the modern novel. Updating the tradition, Rowan




Williams has suggested that the work of A.S. Byatt could be placed within this Protestant canon. And is it too fanciful to see in *Bridget Jones's Diary*, a self-lacerating catalogue of calories and fags, a modern, secular equivalent of the type of spiritual diary which godly men once kept in the 17th century?

**TRISTRAM HUNT,**
***Observer***

**Bridge Art Fair London**
**Room 101 London Debut of *Baby Grand Piano*/Cynthia Karalla**

*The Baby Grand Piano* is a photomontage of 88 penises (52 white and 36 black) photographed and digitally assembled to make a 60-inch piano keyboard. Karalla studied the construction of a piano, took some 20,000 photographs over a period of two years in Southern Italy and New York City, and built the 7 octaves of the instrument.

**From the Cynthia Corbett Gallery autumn programme**

# Pseuds Corporate

Adding to the superlative content, the venue [the British Museum] is all the more enhanced for us this year by the presence of the most exciting exhibition in the UK for many years: The First Emperor of China's terracotta army.

Qin Shihuangdi, in case you had forgotten his name, clearly understood that getting ahead couldn't be achieved in isolation when he brought together the provinces of the south-east Asian continent to form the world's oldest surviving political entity, China. Today, he is better known for the extraordinary army of terracotta warriors that he had buried alongside him to protect his journey into the afterlife and whilst the First Emperor might not recognise the high-tech world in which we live and work today, he'd certainly have appreciated the forward thinking that led Software AG to team up with webMethods – making us the world's largest independent provider of Business Infrastructure Software.

**JIM CLOSE, Senior Vice-President & Country Manager Software AG (UK) Limited, invites you to join him at 'Business Innovation Day 2007'**

CONTRIBUTORS: Gillian Harrison, D.A. Smith, James Matthews, APR, Anon, Clive Oldfield.

**£10 paid for all entries**

# IN THE BACK

LOCKERBIE APPEAL

## Fragment of the imagination?

**CLAIMS that Scottish prosecutors suppressed evidence that could have pointed to the innocence of Libyan Ali Mohmed al-Megrahi (pictured), jailed for life for the murder of 270 people in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, have prompted demands for an immediate international investigation.**

Last week the *Glasgow Herald* disclosed that the prosecution team had examined a CIA document relating to a tiny fragment of a bomb timer said to have been found in the crash debris and used to implicate Megrahi. They had failed to disclose it to the defence, even though it apparently cast doubt on both the suggestion that the fragment came from the timer used to blow up the Pan Am flight, and the idea that it was, as claimed, purchased by the Libyans.

The existence of the document, uncovered by the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission, formed one of six grounds for concluding last July that there had been a miscarriage of justice. The commission did not disclose the sensitive document as part of its 800-page report into the affair because it seems it could not obtain authority from the US.

Given the sudden confession last month by Ulrich Lumpert, a Swiss electronics engineer, that in 1989 he stole a "non-operational" timing board from his employer and handed it to "a person officially investigating in the Lockerbie case", and the stink that has always surrounded the case becomes overwhelming. Lumpert, who gave evidence at the trial, now risks arrest for perjury should he ever leave his homeland.

But even without these damning revelations six and a half years after the trial, the evidence surrounding the fragment of bomb timer, like so much of the case against Megrahi, is deeply flawed. Those flaws were exposed at the specially convened no-jury trial that began in the Netherlands in 2000, but the three Scottish judges performed all sorts of leaps of logic to avoid them.

Shortly after the trial, the many inconsistencies were set out by the late Paul Foot in *Lockerbie, the Flight from Justice*, a 32-page special report in the *Eye*. The fragment of circuit board said to have come from the MST-13 timer featured heavily. It was made by Lumpert's Swiss employer, Mebo, and was alleged to have detonated the bomb.

First, there were differing accounts of how the fragment, apparently embedded in the neck of a shirt, was found. By the time of the trial, the shirt was said to have been found by a policeman combing the area, DC Gilchrist, in January 1989. Forensic exhibits are supposed to be carefully preserved and labelled, but Gilchrist was unable to explain why the label on the exhibit bag had been changed from "cloth charred" to "debris". The judges decided Gilchrist's evidence about the change was "at worst evasive and at best confusing".

The court heard that the fragment was examined by Dr Thomas Hayes of the Ministry of Defence laboratories at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment (RARDE) in May 1989, some four months after its discovery. But the page on which he recorded his findings appeared to have been inserted in his notebook at a later date and the pages renumbered. Dr Hayes could not explain this. Hayes was one of the RARDE scientists criticised by the May inquiry into the erroneous conviction of the Maguire family for explosives offences in 1976.

If Lumpert is now telling the truth, he did not hand over an identical circuit board to investigators until June, and after Hayes is said to have examined the fragment.

The fragment wasn't photographed until September by Allen Fereday, a RARDE scientist who note to police saying it was the best he could do in the short time available. No one could explain why a gap of four months was a "short time".

What is clear is that it wasn't until June the following year in Washington that US investigators identified the fragment as a match to the Mebo timers. The bosses of the Swiss manufacturers, Bollier and Meister, subsequently confirmed that they had supplied 20 such timers to the Libyans. Suddenly, more than a year after the explosion, the entire Scottish investigation switched its focus to Libya. Evidence already obtained, much of it from German police, that linked the Pan Am 103 bomb to a Syrian-backed terrorist cell in Frankfurt, hired by Iranians to avenge the shooting down of a civil airliner by the US, was promptly dropped.

The German police had discovered altitude-sensitive bombs, designed for aircraft, which could be packed in cassette recorders with timing devices triggered to start at a height of 3,000ft. They were calculated to blow an aircraft up 38 minutes after take-off – exactly how long after leaving Heathrow that Pan Am 103 exploded. At the time, it was reported that a piece of circuit board recovered from a Pan Am aircraft pallet was expected to link it to the Syrian-backed cell.

The bizarre twist in the face of this mounting evidence incriminating Syria and Iran prompted Foot to conclude that it was nothing more than political expediency: the US suddenly needed Syrian and Iranian support for an attack on Saddam Hussein's occupying forces in Kuwait.

Foot outlined how Megrahi and his original co-accused, Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah, who was acquitted by the Scottish judges, were originally put in the frame by a "Libyan defector", Abdul Giaka, a proven liar and cheat who was handsomely rewarded for his evidence by the CIA. A series of cables sent from his CIA handlers to headquarters, which were originally withheld from the trial but later released in a redacted form, showed that the agents themselves thought he was a man of little credibility. The judges agreed his evidence was "at best grossly exaggerated and worst untrue, and largely motivated by financial considerations". But they never questioned why the prosecution should rely on such a corrupt and desperate liar in the first place.

Instead, the judges relied on the only other evidence that incriminated Megrahi: his identification, 11 years after the event, by Tony Gauci, a Maltese shopkeeper who sold the 13 items of clothing that were packed round the bomb. The Scottish review commission found the many flaws in that identification evidence to be grounds for an appeal by Megrahi. And it has now emerged that they uncovered other sensitive documentation casting doubt on Gauci's reliability. Unconfirmed reports suggest it relates to offers of payment by the CIA.

This week, lawyers acting for Megrahi are expected to make applications to the court relating to his forthcoming appeal, including asking for all the documentation in the case to be made public.

Dr Hans Köchler, the UN observer at the original Netherlands trial, said that if (as now seems likely) the CIA was able to dictate what was disclosed and what was not, then the entire proceedings had been "perverted into a kind of intelligence operation, the purpose of which is not the search for the truth, but the obfuscation of reality". He added his weight to the families' calls for an immediate independent international investigation into the affair.

IRAQ SECURITY

## Dog eat dog of war

**THE shooting of 11 Iraqis in a Baghdad market place last month by guards from the US private military company (PMC) Blackwater focused attention on how contractors treat civilians in Iraq. But how do the PMCs treat each other?**

Though they don't tend to go round shooting each other with the same abandon, *Private Eye* has seen documents that suggest it's still a dog eat dog world for the soldiers of fortune.

Take the case of British defence consultant Richard Galustian. Shortly after Saddam's fall, he set up ISI Iraq. It won contracts to guard US officials and staff from multinationals, its specialty being to supply locally recruited Iraqi guards. This helped it win sub-contracts from larger British security firms.

Galustian also started to work for SkyLink Arabia, a western outfit with a valuable contract to operate Baghdad, Basra and Mosul airports. SkyLink Arabia, run by former British paratrooper Mike Douglas, had a lot of premises, planes and fuel to be guarded; and Galustian helped Douglas in negotiations with the fledgling Iraqi government and other management issues.

Galustian worked for a 10 percent share in Skylink Arabia rather than management fees. But when he asked for his shares, Douglas and SkyLink's Canadian managers denied any such offer existed. As business disputes go, so far, so routine. However, during legal negotiations about the shares this summer, SkyLink's representatives suddenly produced an Iraqi arrest warrant for Galustian and said they would not continue negotiations because of the document. When asked by *Private Eye* how it had obtained the warrant, SkyLink would not respond. But it appears to have given an original, stamped copy of the warrant to a translator before it presented it to Galustian.

The Iraqi government has never previously produced an arrest warrant for any western contractor (even when Blackwater shot Iraqi civilians and officials). But what is even more unusual is that while the warrant listed Galustian's name, address and position, the space for "Type of crime and article of law" was, er, blank.

This did not stop Lawrence Peter, head of the Private Security Company Association of Iraq (PSCAI), sending a copy of the warrant to many – possibly all – his members. The PSCAI trade group represents PMCs operating in Iraq and most of the big US, British and other companies are members. Peter is close to Jack Holly, the former Marine who oversees private security companies for the US army. He's also responsible for "working closely with the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior" on licensing.

On Galustian's behalf staff from the British embassy in Iraq were persuaded to approach the Iraqi judge who had allegedly signed the warrant. But he hadn't. The judge said it wasn't his signature and he hadn't even been sitting on the day the warrant was dated. Even though the warrant was forged, the PSCAI would not contact its members to point this out. The phony warrant duly had an effect. ISI began to lose its Iraq contracts and its operating licence slipped away. Galustian decided to leave Iraq, worried that the widely circulated warrant could put his own security at risk.

The affair goes far beyond a tiff between two contractors. If security firms do business with each other by trading in fake arrest warrants, what kind of treatment can Iraqi civilians – who do not have the backing of western embassies or legal support – expect? And if PSCAI, which claims to be interested in "self regulation" for its members, helps circulate phony documents, what chance is there of the private security industry policing itself properly?

SAUDI TORTURE

# Business as usual

Les Walker, Bill Sampson and Sandy Mitchell

**GORDON BROWN's new regime is as determined as Tony Blair's to suck up to Saudi Arabia – even when its abuse and use of torture is directed against Britons.**

Lawyers acting for three men who were jailed in Saudi, tortured into making false confessions and subjected to a sham trial for planting a car bomb which killed a fellow Briton, were hoping that new Foreign Secretary David Miliband might raise the issue of redress with the Saudis.

But with lucrative arms deals at stake for firms like BAE Systems, it's business as usual for the Brown government.

"Diplomatic efforts have not received any encouragement at all," was Miliband's pathetic response last month. He believed the best chance for the men to obtain justice (they were hung upside down and beaten with sticks, and one of them was raped) was to continue to work through the courts.

This would have been less insulting to Sandy Mitchell, Bill Sampson and Les Walker if they did not already feel betrayed by the government which last year joined with the Saudis before the UK law lords to block the men's claims for torture and false imprisonment on the grounds of Saudi "state immunity".

The men want to contest this ruling in the European Court of Human Rights, but their case is against the UK government, will take several years and is unlikely ever to secure compensation from the Saudi kingdom to help them rebuild their shattered lives.

The three had worked in Saudi for many years until they were made scapegoats for what is believed to have been a series of bombings aimed at westerners by Islamic fundamentalists. They were tortured and forced to sign ludicrous confessions dictated by their captors. They were even paraded on Saudi TV claiming to have had acted on the instruction of named officials at the British embassy. Following a trial, condemned by the United Nations as a travesty, Mitchell and Sampson were sentenced to death by crucifixion.

The men were eventually released in August 2003. Sir Geoffrey Bindman, their lawyer, says that while British ministers and officials applied some pressure on their behalf, evidence suggested their release was part of a secret agreement with the US to exchange Saudis held at Guantanamo Bay.

No one doubts the men's innocence and medical evidence supported their claims of torture. The inquest two years ago into the death of Christopher Rodway, who died in the Riyadh bombing, heard from senior anti-terrorist officers from Scotland Yard that there was no evidence at all to suggest the men were involved other than their forced "confessions".

Saudi Arabia, like the UK, is party to the UN Convention Against Torture. So when diplomatic efforts to secure compensation from the Saudis failed, the men sought to sue for torture in the UK courts. Their lawyers believed they could overcome the issue of "state immunity" by naming those responsible for the torture, including the head of the prison and the minister under whose authority the torturers had acted, Prince Naif, rather than by suing the kingdom itself.

The Saudis claimed the officials were also protected by state immunity, but the court of appeal disagreed and upheld the men's claim. Victory was brief. When the Saudis appealed to the House of Lords, they were supported by the UK government's counsel, Professor Christopher Greenwood QC – the very same lawyer who advised Tony Blair that the invasion of Iraq was lawful.

The men's claim was duly struck out by the five law lords.

When Bindman asked the new foreign secretary to intervene, Miliband said he recognised "the very real suffering" the men had endured but added: "In the event of a possible diplomatic opening with the Saudis on the case presenting itself at some point in the future, I would be happy to meet you and your clients." Which sounds like a long winded way of saying sometime never.

UK AID

# Trough at the top

**WHAT might emerge as the most shocking of all Labour privatisations has deprived over-stretched aid budgets of hundreds of millions of pounds while the managers who pushed it through have become multi-millionaires in the space of two years.**

In 2004 the then Development Secretary Hilary Benn (pictured) carved out the fund management function from the government-owned development fund CDC (formerly the Commonwealth Development Corporation, see *Eye* 1183). The fund's job is to invest UK aid in firms in developing countries; and the private equity firm created to do this, Actis, was set up (using £5m of taxpayers' money) in plush riverside offices, while 60 percent of the new "limited liability partnership" was sold to former CDC managers led by Paul Fletcher for £373,000.

This was something of a bargain price for managing, without facing any competition, £1bn of state funds; and Fletcher and chums quickly recouped their investment: by the following year Actis reported annual profits of $14m – and that was *after* the firm's 192 employees had been paid an average $220,000. Senior partner Fletcher trousered $1.84m.

These riches, it has now emerged, are far from the limit of the Actis partners' fortunes. Buried in a recent public accounts committee report on the government's Shareholder Executive, which monitors the government's residual 40 percent stake, is an estimate from the National Audit Office that by June 2006 the holding was worth between £182m and £535m.

Although this minority stake currently entitles the government to 80 percent of Actis's profits, the arrangement ends in 2009. So Fletcher and Co's 60 percent was almost certainly worth more than £200m and possibly as much as £800m. In two years the 20 or so partners in Actis had seen their money grow by at least 5,000 percent, putting their average share at £10m or more each. *Kerr-ching!*

So how did Actis come to be sold for so little when it's now worth so much? The *Eye* asked to see the calculation of the £373,000 valuation back in 2004 and what the still publicly-owned CDC pays it to manage its funds. After several months both the Department for International Development's "Openness (sic) Unit" and the Shareholder Executive refused to release any details.

DfID claimed the valuation calculation was "commercially sensitive" and it would not be in the public's interest to know any more. Actis said the NAO's valuation "bears no relationship to our views of the value of the government's stake". Which are what, exactly? "Commercially sensitive and confidential", came the predictable reply.

DfID wouldn't say what Actis is paid by CDC but admitted it had "a risk/reward structure similar to other private equity firms... informed by the standards prevailing in the industry in 2004. For each fund this includes a mix of fees and carried interest". In other words, the standards of a private equity industry at its most rampant determined how much Actis is paid, making the business extremely valuable, as the NAO has now found. So why sell 60 percent of it for just £373,000? "The calculations", says DfID, "were undertaken by KPMG Corporate Finance Consultants, appointed by CDC Group plc to provide an objective opinion". That's the same CDC whose chief executive Paul Fletcher and other senior managers would be the buyers of the new firm.

KPMG also provided valuation advice when the Department of Health overpaid for its stake in information company Dr Foster by a couple of million, provoking stern criticism from the public accounts committee but chicken-feed next to the apparent under-valuation of Actis that MPs will surely want to question.

CHARITY GIVING

# Listen Darling...

**CHARITIES are urging the chancellor Alistair Darling to reverse a corporate tax break Gordon Brown introduced in 2000 which was aimed at boosting donations to charity but has in fact boosted nothing but company profits.**

Among a host of changes in the 2000 budget designed to "Get Britain Giving", Brown awarded tax reliefs to companies who make donations to good causes, reversing the Gift Aid system under which charities had re-claimed the tax that donating companies had paid. The switch was designed to promote levels of corporate charitable giving found in America where the tax relief goes to the donor.

Research now shows that, two years later, far from increasing, British corporate charitable donations have actually fallen by £66m, or 21 percent. "The simple fact is that companies have been pocketing the tax breaks for themselves without increasing their community investment budgets accordingly," says Graham Leigh of the charity research body, the Directory of Social Change.

Company accountants took advantage of the new tax break but kept donations at the same level, conveniently forgetting to adjust for the fact that they, rather than the charity, now reclaimed the tax.

Despite American-style incentives, UK company giving remains more Ebenezer Scrooge than Andrew Carnegie. Last year corporate cash donations to charities stood at a pitiful £367m, little more than 1 per cent of the sector's income. Now charities, led by the Institute of Fundraising, want Darling to give the tax reliefs back to them, especially as his boss has been at pains to laud their effectiveness in "social and economic regeneration".

But any backtracking will be opposed by the corporate lobby. The Institute of Directors says companies simply need to be educated about how the system works. Who will Darling listen to?

***You can contact the In the Back team on 020 7437 4017 or email: strobes@private-eye.co.uk***

# In the City

MUCH has been said – especially by his lawyers and allies at the Department of Culture Media & Sport and the Olympic Delivery Authority – defending Lord Coe against allegations that he had sought to profit from his position as chairman of LOCOG, the body organizing the 2012 London Olympics.

The allegations – made last month in a Channel 4 *Dispatches* documentary – centred around his role as the major shareholder in the Complete Leisure Group (CLG), which owns the rights to Lord Squeaky's services and was activated with £1m of investors' cash soon after London won the Games. Coe denied any attempt to cash in on his position and declared that the activities of CLG were ring-fenced from the Olympics – despite evidence that some of his investors were to say the least confused about the non-2012 benefits from backing CLG and that the lines between the Coe company's activities and the Olympics were perhaps somewhat blurred.

Ironically Coe was perhaps saved by the fact that a planned flotation of CLG on the AIM market failed to materialize. Had it done so Coe could have seen his £4,000 investment translated into a stake worth several millions. But the AIM float was pulled after it appears questions were raised about the perception of a Coe conflict of interest – even if there is not one.

This decision did not please some of the CLG investors who had gone in on the assurance that they would be able to exit through the AIM float within 12 months – by the end of 2006. Some investors demanded their money back, which was done by way of a loan.

However, the furore missed two key issues about Coe and CLG which are equally disturbing and do not reflect well on Lord Sque aky's business judgement.

The first is the continued failure of CLG, in a criminal breach of the Companies Act, to produce its accounts for 2006. These should have been filed by the end of July. They have still not appeared. Coe as chairman is jointly liable for this failure. At least part of the reason for the non-appearance of the accounts would appear to be disputes between the company and its auditor, Adler Shine, over fees and CLG's financial status.

But perhaps a more serious issue relates to Coe's reliance on businessman Peter Abbey to raise the money for CLG and to continue to be involved in its management. Coe's defenders described Abbey as a "minor investor" with less than 10 percent of the shares. In a bid to further distance CLG from Abbey the company has, since the TV programme, transferred its registered office from that of Abbey to that of new director/ shareholder Harold Tillman, who runs the Jaeger clothing group.

But why did Coe do business with Abbey in the first place, given his past and present reputation – a point raised here in May 2006 (*Eye* 1158)?

Abbey is a former bankrupt from 1985 and avoided a second bankruptcy by entering into an IVA agreement with his creditors in 1994. He owed £521,000 mostly to Barclays Bank. He agreed to pay at least £26,400 over five years, or 5p in the £.

The two listed companies of which he was a director ended up either making big losses or bust. He resigned as chief executive of Home Video Holdings in 1983 after questions were raised about the accounts by the chairman who then resigned. Home Video subsequently reported a loss of more than £2.5m. After his bankruptcy was discharged in 1989 Abbey became a director

of Video Store Group. The company collapsed in 1991 owing more than £4m.

Since 1985 Abbey has been involved in seven companies that have failed either while he was a director or soon after. The first was On-TV Productions in 1985. A year after Video Store crashed, another video shop business, Sun Tzu Corporation, was wound up by HM Customs in 1992 with a deficiency for creditors of £828,000. In 1993 Unistar Enterprises, yet another video business, was wound up by the directors owing £147,000. The next year it was the turn of Goldcrown Trading which owed £20,000 when wound up by its directors. Overtex was wound up by creditors in 1994. Oakrise was wound up by the directors in 1994 owing £75,000.

Peter Abbey is also no stranger to county court judgments. The London media lawyers Olswangs obtained a judgment against him for £3,674 in 2003. And in July this year so too did a London antiques dealer who obtained judgment for a £745 debt.

Much more substantial was a high court order obtained in March last year against Abbey by stockbrokers Hoodless Brennan for £275,000. This arose after a dispute about a £150,000 loan made in 2001 by the brokers. When this was not repaid Hoodless Brennan commenced legal proceedings against Garnham, an offshore company with which Abbey was at one time connected, and Abbey. Subsequently the brokers accepted that the loan was not the responsibility of Garnham but of Abbey and a business partner.

Abbey agreed to repay the £275,000 in monthly installments by June 2007. However, he soon stopped making the payments claiming he did not have the means to pay. Hoodless Brennan finally obtained settlement of the debt this summer but only after threatening to bankrupt Abbey.

Not surprisingly Abbey has only ever appeared in the background of listed companies post-Video Store. His name surfaced in two early AIM scandals – Firecrest and Skynet – of the mid-90s. In 2003 he emerged again in three AIM-listed shells but only as a shareholder.

Despite offering to raise pre-IPO funding for private companies on the cheap, neither Abbey nor Berkeley Consultants are authorized to do investment business by the Fundamentally Supine Authority. Instead the Abbey offers rely on the exemptions provided by only pitching to supposed "sophisticated investors", investment professionals or high net worth companies. The documentation is also made clear not to be a prospectus so not covered by the Companies Act rules.

Abbey lives in Monaco where he has had a home for several years. However, he also has a flat in London and commutes regularly there Tuesday to Thursday.

Although there is no AIM listing, the latest list of CLG shareholders suggests that Abbey at least has been able to realize some of his investment. His Gibraltar company Berkeley Consultants is shown to have transferred 1m of its 4m shares in June this year. To whom and at what price is unclear. It is assumed there was a worthwhile tax-free profit.

All or most of the above should have been available to Seb Coe had he made due diligence inquiries into Peter Abbey, who he had known for some time once Abbey offered to raise the money for CLG. The bulk of the £1m CLG funding was raised by Abbey in London or Monaco, mostly from his circle of regular investors. As the face of London 2012, Coe would have been expected to show greater awareness of the risks to his reputation.

THE sudden crisis at once high-flying vocational training group Carter & Carter – two profit warnings and now a share suspension since the death of founder and chief executive Philip Carter in a helicopter crash in May – have raised questions about the company's past profitability.

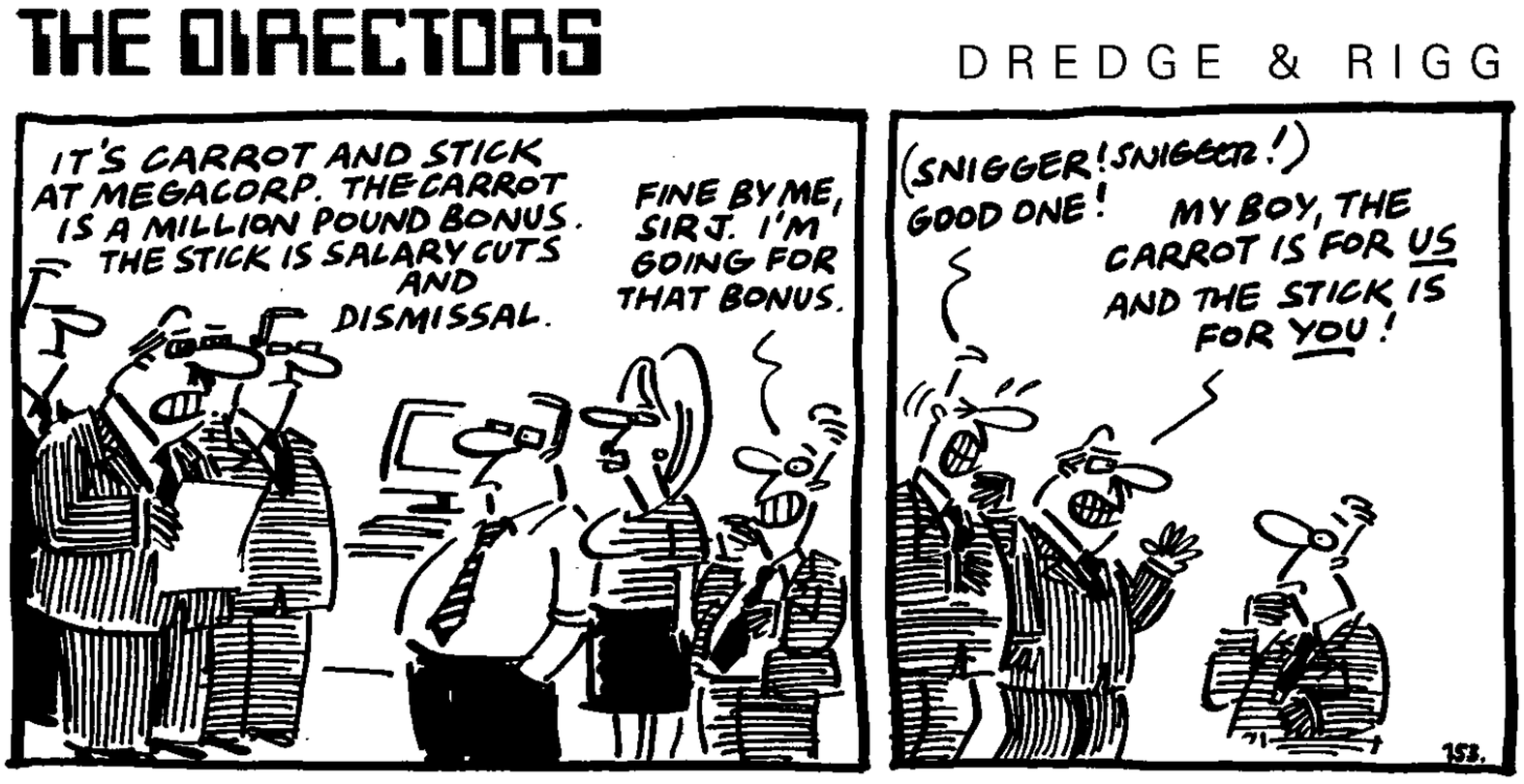
The company says it is assessing the "accuracy" of some revenue streams and the recoverability of certain current assets. Some £500m had been wiped off the company's market value since April. C&C floated in 2005.

It looks very much as if C&C could join the list of companies where aggressive accounting policies were combined with a dominant chief executive and too compliant directors and auditors.

Shades of Isoft, the 2006 accounts show that C&C was recognizing revenues – mostly from government training contracts – that had been "earned but not invoiced". The amount recognized was said to be "the proportion of the anticipated net sales value earned to date". Just how much was not made clear but the unpaid balances were supposed to be accounted for as debtors or creditors in the balance sheet. So that was all right then.

Except that à la Enron a look at the C&C cash flows showed that while the company declared revenues of £94m, earnings of £16m and operating profits of just under £12m, but it only generated an operating cash flow of just under £8m. So a large chunk of the declared profits were not cash. Which suggests that the company was overly reliant on acquisitions and more contracts rather than internal profits for growth. Failure to obtain new contracts was blamed for the profit warnings.

C&C had three independent non-executive directors. All were well paid – chairman Rodney Westhead received £47,000 last year and David Galloway and Adrian Smith £30,000 each.


THE DIRECTORS
DREDGE & RIGG
IT'S CARROT AND STICK AT MEGACORP. THE CARROT IS A MILLION POUND BONUS. THE STICK IS SALARY CUTS AND DISMISSAL.
FINE BY ME, SIR J. I'M GOING FOR THAT BONUS.
(SNIGGER! SNIGGER!) GOOD ONE!
MY BOY, THE CARROT IS FOR US AND THE STICK IS FOR YOU!

Unusually all three also had sizeable shareholdings which it could be said tied them too closely to the company's fortunes and Philip Carter, the largest shareholder.

Auditor PricewaterhouseCoopers also did well from C&C. But whereas it was paid £222,000 to carry out the audit, it earned another £675,000 from other services such as tax advice and due diligence on acquisitions. The previous year those numbers were £85,000 and £871,000. Such reliance on non-audit revenues is never a recipe for independence, so PwC too may have been a little too close to the company and its driving force.

Westhead blames "over ambitious and over acquisitive expansion" for C&C's problems. That appears to be code for Philip Carter. The question shareholders should be asking is if it is a case of "blame the dead man", where were the non-executives and the auditors while Philip Carter was alive?

## PLANET FOOTBALL

### Arsenal

A LOT has been made of the six-year Soviet era prison sentence served by Arsenal's latest unwanted signing as a major shareholder – Russian oligarch Alisher Usmanov. Usmanov was jailed in 1980 on charges of corruption, fraud and theft of state property. He has always claimed that the charges were fabricated and political and the conviction was indeed later overturned and his criminal record expunged with a pardon.

Somewhat less has been made of Usmanov's admitted relationship with Gafur Rakhimov, a long-time friend from Uzbekistan. Asked about Rakhimov by the *Observer* in 1998 Usmanov said: "I have known him 20 years. He has helped my parents. But there is no close relationship, no business link. I visit Uzbekistan only two or three times a year. I see him in Tashkent."

Earlier in 1998 Rakhimov had been denied entry to France because of his reputed links to Russian organized crime. Two years later Rakhimov was refused entry to Australia for the Olympic Games – he was a member of the official Uzbekistan delegation – "for the safety and security of the Australian community". "We are dealing with serious issues of character," declared immigration minister Philip Ruddock.

Rakhimov had been identified by the FBI in 1995 as being connected to Russian organized crime. Usmanov told the *Observer* he was aware of the allegations describing Rakhimov as a "big drugs baron" and had even raised them with him but blamed the allegations on business rivals.

Usmanov also admitted to knowing two other FBI-tagged organized crime figures – Sergei Mikhailov, according to the FBI boss of Moscow's Solntsevo crime group, and Vyacheslav Ivankov, a veteran Russian gangster. Of Mikhailov, Usmanov said: "I've seen him two or three times. But I don't have with him any relationship. I last saw him 10 years ago." Of Ivankov he said: "I have seen him once. I do not have no relationship [*sic*]."

Usmanov has always rejected any suggestion of involvement with organized crime. As he told the *Observer* in 1998: "I am against these streetmen. It is not my world. I keep my name and my face clean."

*'Slicker'*

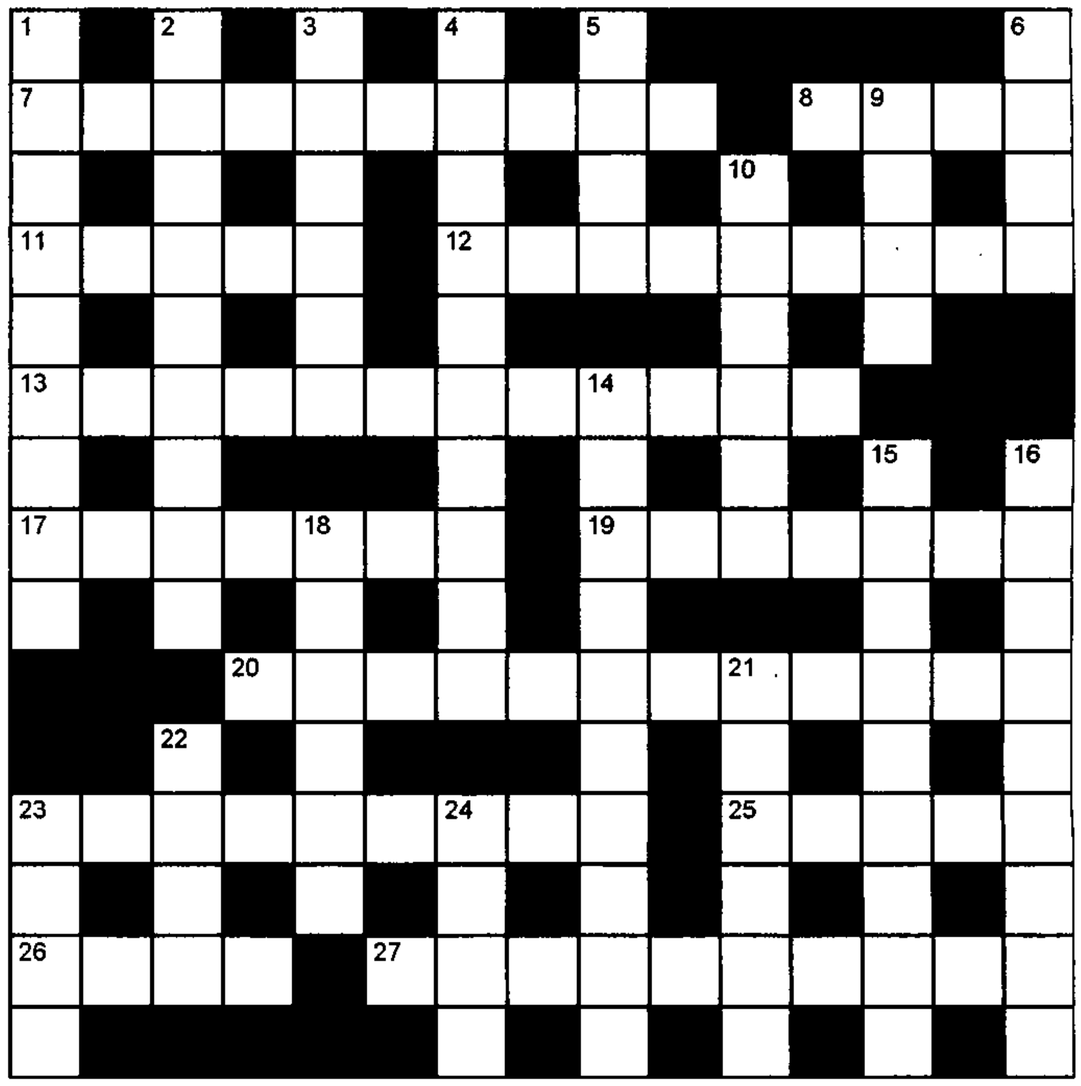
## NUMBER CRUNCHING

**10** Price in pounds of two men's long-sleeve V-neck shirts at Tesco

**100** People injured in riots at 20 factories in Bangladesh owned by Tesco supplier, protesting against "inhumane conditions"

# EYE CROSSWORD 350

by Cyclops



**£100 prize to first correct solution opened on 19 October 2007**

**Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN or via email to crossword@private-eye.co.uk**

**ACROSS**

7 Ignore Bush's soft soap (10)

8 Personal ad placer claims to have this golly with its stuffing switched? (4)

11 Music-wise, however, it offers no relief in the cultural desert? (5)

12 Tory (one for love) wanks off villains alike (4,5)

13 Attractive young women: they've dropped! (5,7)

17 Where pub smokers might be forced to go? Middle of nowhere! (7)

19 A *Countdown* presenter has cheek going topless – warrant produced! (7)

20 CIA's remained pisspoor as Blair's foreign policy had become? (12)

23 Crackers to open this and land on testicle? (6,3)

25 Pick-up ploy? (5)

26 What's used to mail back a response about end of dick in alcoholic drink? (4)

27 "Theatre-balls" is eminently sensible (2-8)

**DOWN**

1 One of the Church's distinctly non-Christian internal wrangles? (6,3)

2 Sailor's no. 1 condoms when end is removed (5,4)

3 Hawking possibly stimulated if this busty ... (6)

4 ... toady gets hoover stuck in dog (10)

5 A killer in the main or Bill getting an erection (4)

6 Shit all over the one nearest to one? (4)

9 See 22dn.

10 20% of semen applied to hair highlight (6)

14 Pissed comedian holding up sex drugs? (10)

15/23dn. Leader associated with uncultivated country? That's how many people see him (9,4)

16 Close observers need them as sweat might appear at start of erection? Affirmative (5,4)

18 Member (mine) could be a source of BO (6)

21 One disdaining habit of perverted nuts hugging car crash victim (6)

22/9 Nothing would make Straw change position? F-off! (4,4)

23 See 15dn.

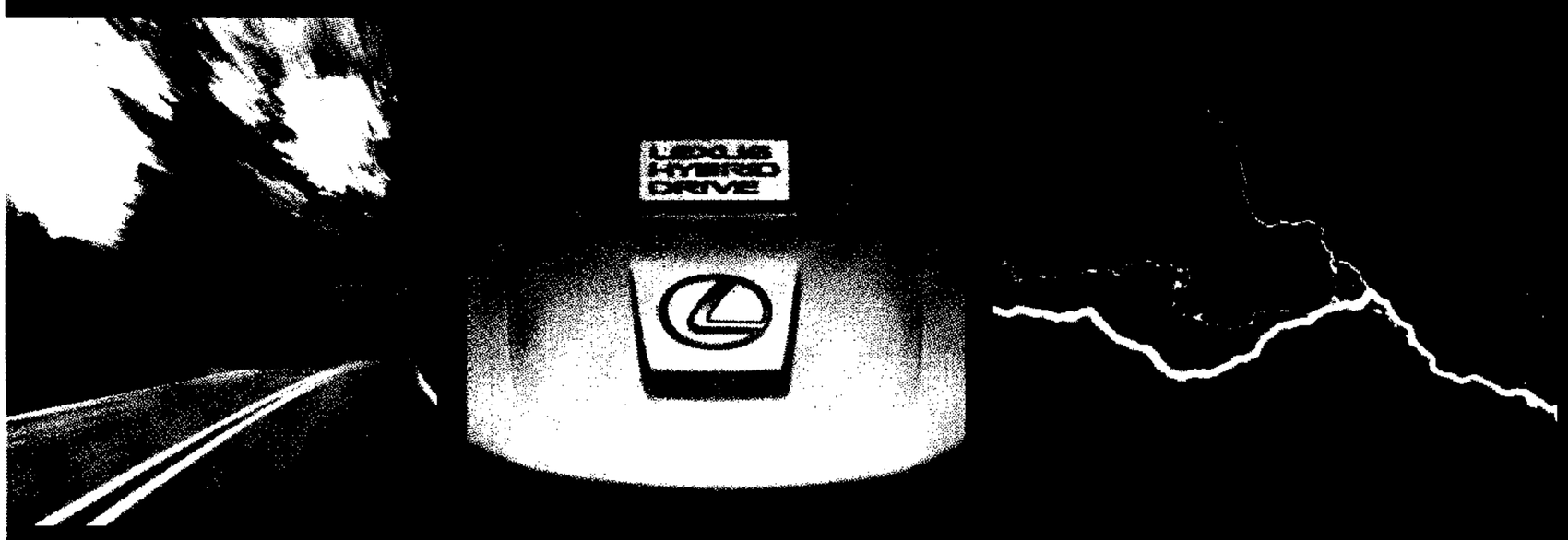
24 Brown finally gets round to authorise recess (4)

**Crossword 349 winner: GERARD KEENAN**

ACROSS: 8 Thermal 9 Apeshit 10 Mired 11 Chicanery 12 New Mexico 13 Tempo 14 Chestnut brown 19 Major 21 Eyes front 23 Socialist 24 Dipso 25 Nest egg 26 Eye-drop.

DOWN: 1 Stamina 2 Regrowth 3 Smudge 4 Electioneering 5 Megastar 6 Phlegm 7 Stays on 9 A bit of the other 15 Streaker 16 Whoppers 17 Amusing 18 Stroppy 20 Jocose 22 Fidget.

# ONE DAY LOWER EMISSIONS WILL COME WITH HIGHER
# THAT DAY IS TODAY.



THE PURSUIT
OF PERFECTION

ADVANCED PETROL
ELECTRIC TECHNOLOGY

POWERFUL NEAR
SILENT DRIVE

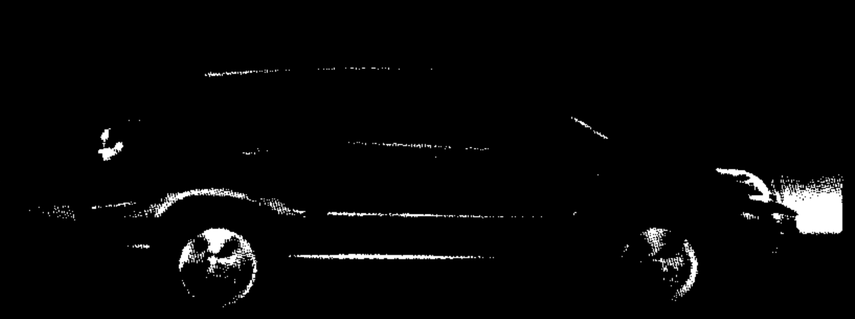
*GREATER EFFICIENCY
AND CLASS-LEADING
LOW $CO_2$ EMISSIONS

NEW LS 600h
THE WORLD'S FIRST ALL
WHEEL DRIVE LUXURY
PERFORMANCE HYBRID SALOON

For more information please call
0845 6019955 or visit www.lexus.co.uk/today

LS 600h L fuel consumption figures: extra-urban 8.0 L/100km (35.3mpg), urban 11.3 L/100km (25.0 mpg), combined 9.3 L/100km (30.4 mpg). $CO_2$ emissions 219 g/km. GS 450h fuel consumption figures: extra-urban 7.2 L/100 km (39.2 mpg), urban 9.2 L/100 km (30.7 mpg), combine

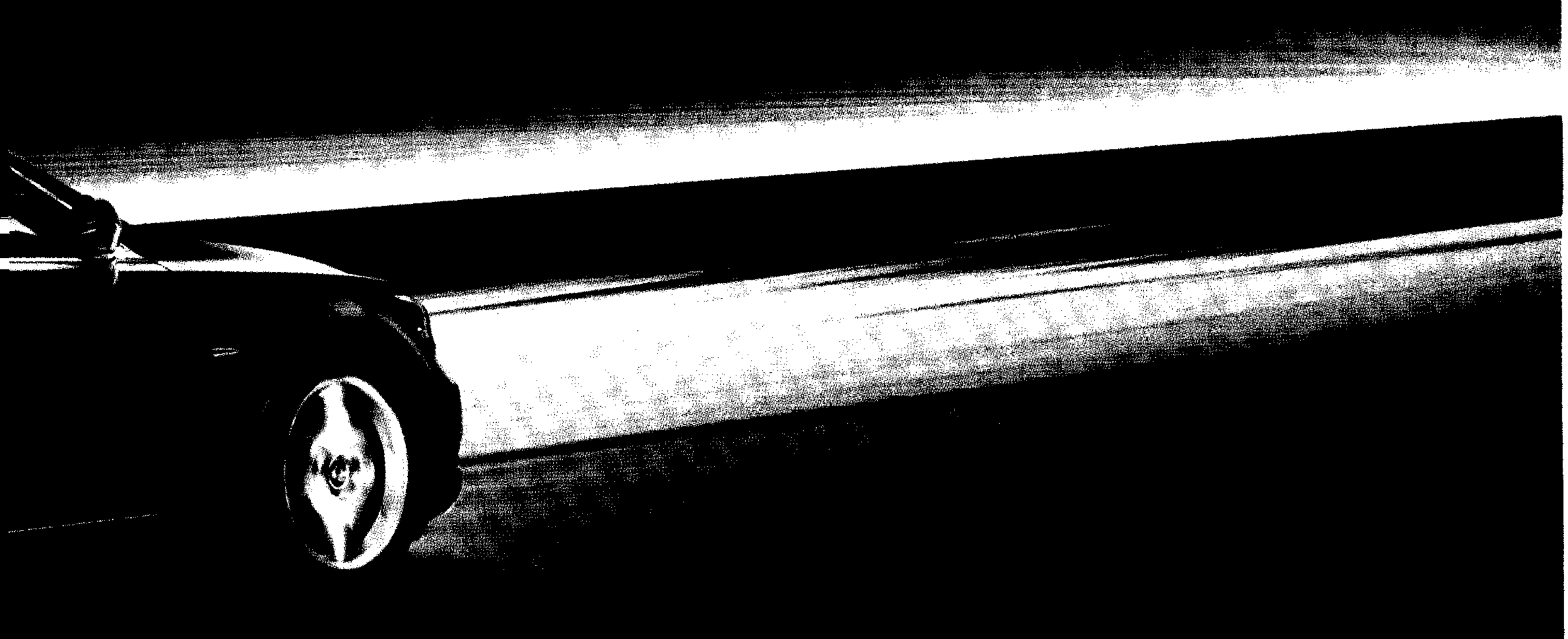
PERFORMANCE.



DRAMATICALLY
ENHANCED
PERFORMANCE

RX 400h
THE WORLD'S FIRST LUXURY
PERFORMANCE HYBRID SUV

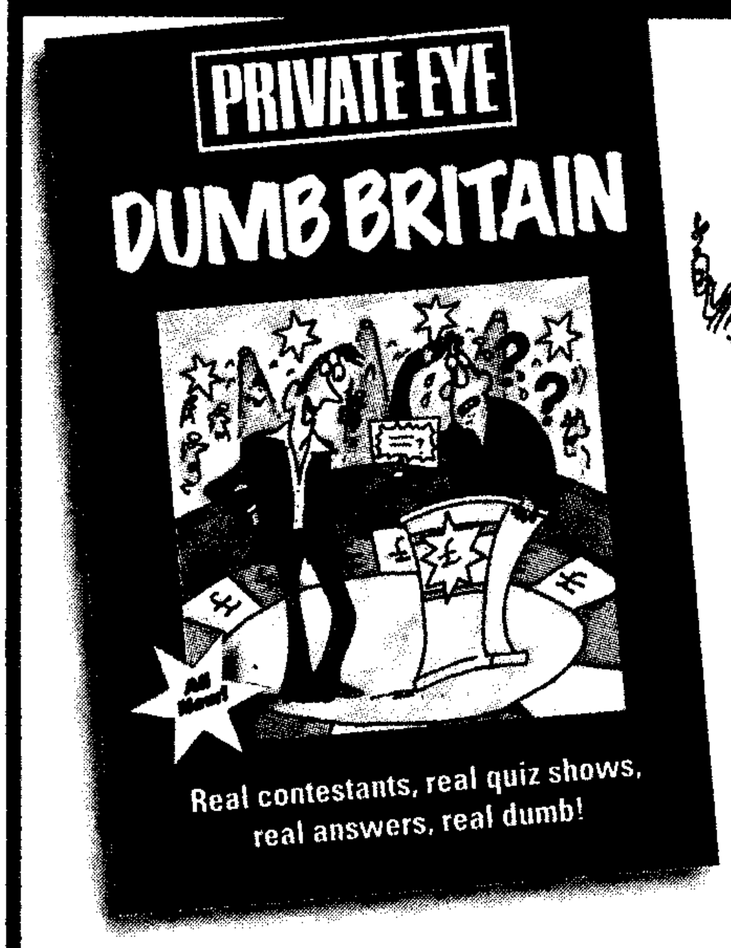
GS 450h
THE WORLD'S FIRST
LUXURY PERFORMANCE
HYBRID SALOON



LEXUS
The pursuit of perfection

7.9 L/100km (35.8 mpg). $CO_2$ emissions 186 g/km. RX 400h fuel consumption figures, extra-urban 7.6 L/100 km (37.2 mpg), urban 9.1 L/100 km (31.0 mpg), combined 8.1 L/100km (34.9 mpg). $CO_2$ emissions 192 g/km. Calls to Lexus will be charged at local rate and may be monitored or recorded.

# ON SALE NOW!



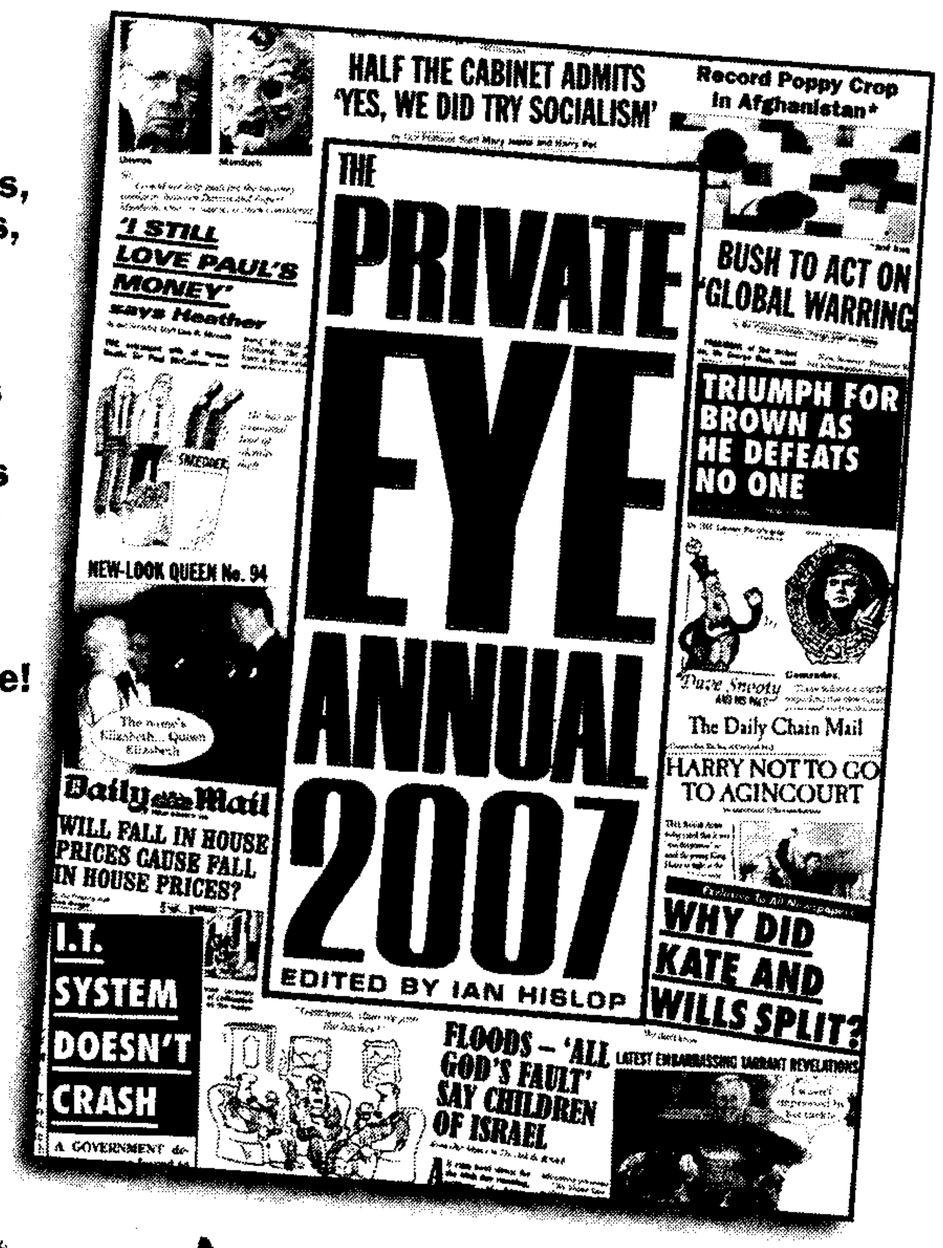
GARY KING: What's the main ingredient of a Molotov cocktail?
CONTESTANT: Vodka?
*LBC 97.3*

**£4.99**

ANNE ROBINSON: The word 'croissant' literally means what shape?
CONTESTANT: Triangle.
*The Weakest Link*

**Sketches, send-ups, spoofs, photo-bubbles, parodies and cartoons from the nation's leading satirical magazine!**

**£9.99**


HALF THE CABINET ADMITS 'YES, WE DID TRY SOCIALISM'
Record Poppy Crop in Afghanistan*
THE PRIVATE EYE ANNUAL 2007
EDITED BY IAN HISLOP
'I STILL LOVE PAUL'S MONEY' says Heather
BUSH TO ACT ON 'GLOBAL WARRING'
TRIUMPH FOR BROWN AS HE DEFEATS NO ONE
NEW-LOOK QUEEN No. 94
The Daily Chain Mail
HARRY NOT TO GO TO AGINCOURT
WHY DID KATE AND WILLS SPLIT?
Daily Mail
WILL FALL IN HOUSE PRICES CAUSE FALL IN HOUSE PRICES?
I.T. SYSTEM DOESN'T CRASH
FLOODS – 'ALL GOD'S FAULT' SAY CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

**The Perfect Christmas Gift!**

**Buy now – while stocks last!**


OM SAI RAM

# A fitting end to the ill-fitting British suit

## A suitable man to spark a men's clothing revolution

Consider this proposition. Would you rather pay the same sum for a single, off-the-peg, chain store suit cut by a computer and sold to you by a spotty boy who thinks side vents are to be found on a Lambretta scooter, or for two bespoke, custom cut, hand-stitched suits, measured and sold to you by a man for whom suits are a lifetime's passion?

The British clothing chain store has a lot to fear from ***Mr. Raja M Daswani*** of Kowloon. If there were a global ambassador for men's suiting, ***Mr. Daswani***, who owns and runs Hong Kong's biggest tailoring business, would be that man. He and his family measure and make hundreds of suits a week for discerning clients across the world.

Indeed, so successful is ***Mr. Daswani***, that - a little unnervingly as he is measuring you up - he freely admits he doesn't really need to work anymore: 'My team is as experienced as I am. But I just love men's suits and I wouldn't feel right sitting at home. It's not a business. It's a mission.

'I love seeing cutomers walk in in a really bad suit that cost them a fortune and walk out in one of our suits that's perfect in every way, made with a good heart in a superior fabric for a half or a quarter as much.'

The price of a Daswani shirt and suit are astonishing. We are talking from £19 (£25 including tax and duty) for a custom shirt and £129 (£169 including tax and duty) for a fully lined, made-to measure suit in a lightweight wool or linen, to £250 (£325 including tax and duty) for a 100 per cent wool, entirely hand finished suit in a British cloth, with every refinement from handmade button holes to knee lining. Even the most expensive suit, made in deluxe superfine wool for £1,500 (£1,950 including tax and duty), costs a third less than it would on Savile Row.

Raja Daswani may be based in Hong Kong, but his sartorial mission to the badly dressed and overpaying British customer brings him to the UK as often as once a month. He and his team take over hotel suites in major cities, so British customers can make an appointment and get the full Kowloon Monty.

Measurements and digital photos are taken here and emailed to Hong Kong. Often, your suit will be started on by a tailor 6,000 miles away before you've even left the hotel. You can have it couriered within a week or so, or wait for a second fitting when the Raja team hits your town again a few weeks later.

It now remains to see whether the Raja revolution, with its inspired mix of artistic flair, entrepreneurial genius and digital technology, will see the end of the off-the-peg British chain store suit. On price alone, it's a sartorial solution that will even please the Suits in accounts.

Business hours : 10am - 8pm (by appointment only)
Email : raja@raja-fashions.com
Mobile : 07786 543258
Tel : 0163 557 4233
Website : www.raja-fashions.com

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| London | Sheraton Park Tower | Heathrow | Sheraton Heathrow |
| Oct 15-21 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 | Nov 1-2 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 |
| London | Novotel London | Leeds | Leeds City Hilton |
| Oct 22-25 | Tower Bridge | Oct 23-24 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 |
| | Tel: 0778-654-3258 | Luton | Thistle Luton |
| London | Hilton On Park Lane | Oct 22-23 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 |
| Oct 26-29 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 | Manchester | Renaissance |
| London | Hilton Paddington Hotel | Oct 21-22 | Manchester Hotel |
| Oct 30-Nov 2 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 | | Tel: 0778-654-3258 |
| London | Canary Wharf | Northampton | Northampton Marriott |
| Oct 30-31 | Four Seasons Hotel | Oct 17-18 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 |
| | Tel: 0778-654-3258 | Norwich | Marriott Sprowton |
| London | Marriott Kensington | Oct 20-21 | Manor Hotel |
| Nov 3-4 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 | | Tel: 0778-654-3258 |
| Birmingham | Hyatt Regency | Nottingham | Crowne Plaza |
| Oct 19-20 | Birmingham | Oct 16-17 | Nottingham |
| | Tel: 0778-654-3258 | | Tel: 0778-654-3258 |
| Brighton | Hilton Brighton | Oxford | Old Bank Hotel |
| Oct 24-25 | Metropole Hotel | Nov 2-3 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 |
| | Tel: 0778-654-3258 | Plymouth | Novotel Plymouth |
| Bristol | Bristol Marriott Hotel | Oct 27-28 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 |
| Oct 31-Nov 1 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 | Reading | Renaissance Reading |
| Cambridge | Royal Cambridge Hotel | Oct 26-27 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 |
| Oct 18-19 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 | Southampton | Hilton Southampton |
| Cardiff | Cardiff Hilton Hotel | Oct 28-29 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 |
| Oct 29-30 | Tel: 0778-654-3258 | | |

**RAJA FASHIONS** **Main shop : 34C Cameron Road, Ground Floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Tel:(852) 2366 7624 Fax:(852) 2369 2807**

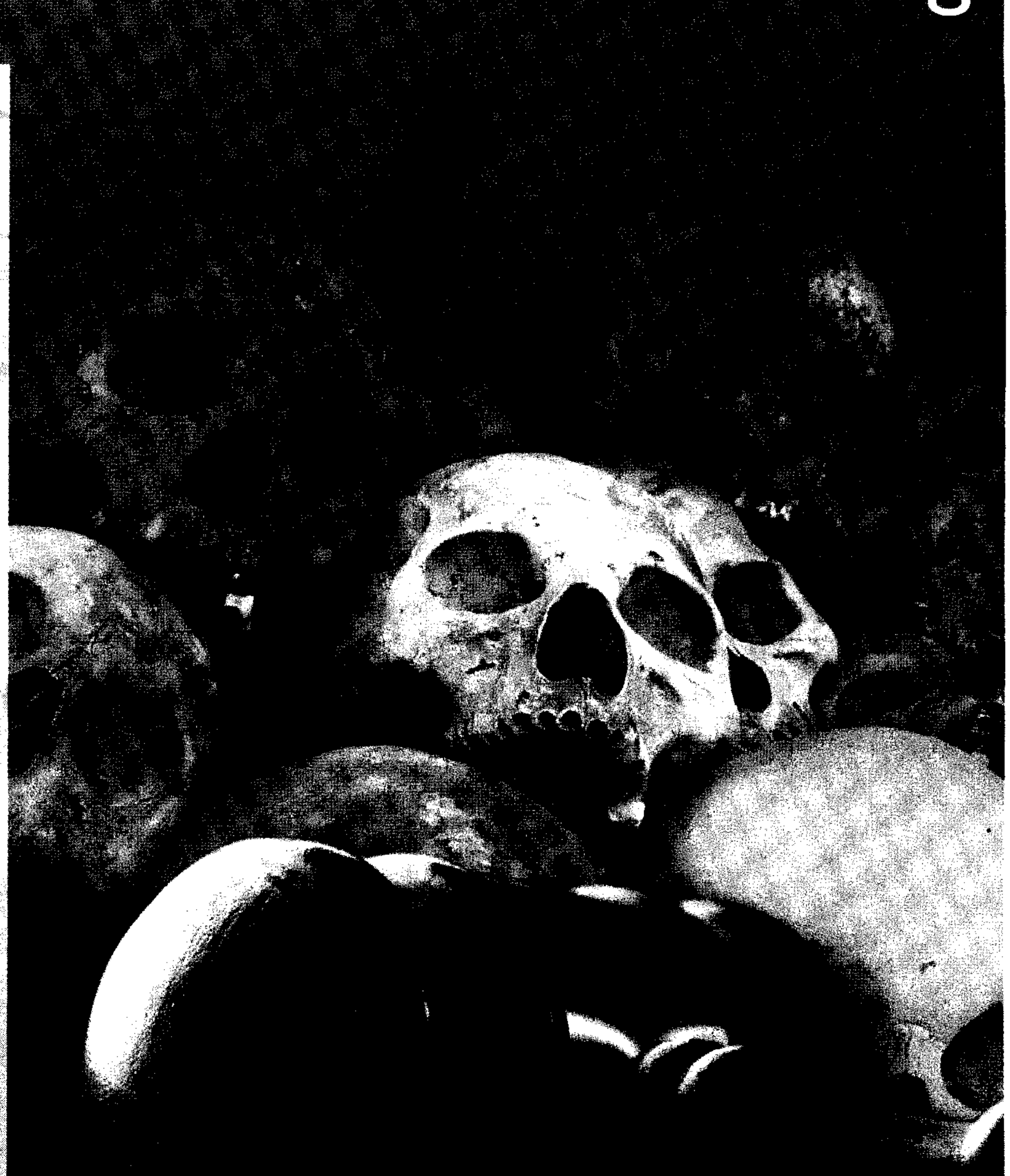
# INTERNATIONAL LAW SEMINAR

in association with UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

to be held at University of Exeter School of Law Streatham Campus Exeter
Friday 19 October 2007 9.30am—5.30pm

36 BEDFORD ROW
THE CHAMBERS OF FRANCES OLDHAM QC

# Iraq, Cambodia and beyond— fair trials in an international setting



## Keynote speaker

**His Honour Judge Howard Morrison QC OBE**—*formerly Defence counsel at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)—sets the theme for the day.*

## Why did it take a decade to reach verdicts in Rwanda?

**Jonathan Kirk**—*Defence Counsel in a genocide trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.*

## Special Court for Sierra Leone

**Kathryn Howarth**—*former Consultant at the Office of the Prosecutor, Special Court for Sierra Leone and Law Clerk at the Prosecutors Office, War Crimes Division, Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Graham Fellow of the International Human Rights Project at the University of Toronto.*

## Arab perspectives on the current system of International Criminal Justice

**Judge Adel Ibrahim Maged**—*Special Advisor to the Islamic Criminal Justice Project, Counsellor at the Egyptian Court of Appeals, on secondment to the Ministry of Justice of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as Legal Advisor on International (Criminal) Law and Treaty Affairs and lecturer in international criminal law at the Institute for Training & Judicial Studies, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).*

## A retrospective after the trial of Saddam Hussein

**Stuart Alford**—*Chair of the International Bar Association/ Foreign Office Training Programme for the judges and prosecutors of the Iraq High Tribunal.*

## 30 years on—defence rights at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal

**Rupert Skilbeck** *(in person or on DVD if abroad) Head of Defence Support Section at the Extraordinary Chamber of the Court of Cambodia.*

## International crimes and Admissible Defences—the input of the Rome Statute

**Dr Caroline Fournet**—*Lecturer in Law, University of Exeter.*

## Corporate Liability for human rights abuses— time to hold companies to account

**Daniel Leader**—*International and Public Law Barrister who has worked on access to justice issues and public interest litigation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Kenya. He has a particular interest in business and human rights and has participated in numerous complaints against British companies under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.*

## Is the International Criminal Court the way ahead?

**Declan O'Callaghan**—*Visiting Scholar at the University of Exeter; International and Public Law Barrister with experience training Iraqi judges in Dubai.*

**6 hours CPD accredited**

Students: £20; Academics: £40; Others: £80

**For more information or to book a place, please contact**

Yvonne Saunders Marketing Coordinator
36 Bedford Row London WC1R 4JH DX: 360 LDE
tel: +44 (0)20 7421 8000
yvonne@36bedfordrow.co.uk

**or book online at www.36bedfordrow.co.uk** (click on 'events')

# PRIVATE EYE Classifieds 020 7240 9129

Email: private-eye@tenalpspublishing.com

Fax: 020 7379 7118

**£2.60 per word (£26 min charge). Centred box £15. Box number £15. All charges inc VAT.**
**Reply to Box number at: Private Eye, Ten Alps Publishing, 9 Savoy Street, London WC2E 7HR.**

**Would advertisers please note that copy date for October 26th issue will be 1pm Tuesday October 16th.**

## Eye Art

**PSSST. WANNA BUY A BANKSY?** Visit www.spitalfieldsartmarket.co.uk

**NON-PC (PRETENTIOUS CRAP) ART!** Antique, modern, contemporary pictures, sculpture, studio ceramics – 50% gallery prices. www.lefays.com

**'MYSTERY TOUR'** filming, Beatles, 1967. Were you there? TV documentary under way. Do you have any photo's or especially cine film footage of the Fab Four & co? Visit www.newquaybeatles.co.uk Contact production, Art House Pictures. Tel: 0203 093 1907.

## Eye Wear

**PUKKA PYJAMAS AND NIGHTSHIRTS** for men, women and boys. www.pukkapyjamas.co.uk

## Eye To Eye

**LONESOME OXBRIDGE BLUES? Blues Match – Bringing Oxbridge People Together. www.BluesMatch.com**

**INTELLIGENT DATING** for graduates of all years. Where minds matter. www.ivorytowers.net

**MEET ORIENTAL LADIES** in London / South-East. Telephone: 01892 833102 or www.jasminintroductions.com

**MEET COUNTRYSIDE LOVERS.** www.countryside-love.co.uk

**LOVING LINKS.** UK's leading discreet adult dating service since 1994. Unique top level one-to-one matching service and fast online email system. Call David for a chat on 08456 440 919.

**WARWICK AREA. IS there a sane single professional female out there for this slim non-smoking, single very healthy male of 33 years? Reply Box 214697.**

**AIR HOSTESS** with occasional time between flights wtm fellow jet-lagged! London: 07952 369222 or Paris; 0033 626 218 858.

**www.nomorefrogs.com** – smart matching for discerning daters! Your Frog-kissing days could be over...

**INTELLIGENT, ATTRACTIVE, SLIM** and youthful London lady, 52, seeks warm, witty, trustworthy and unattached gentleman (50-60) to share interests (classical music, literature, the arts etc) and to have intimacy on all levels: intellectual, emotional and physical. Love, faith and hope are all in waiting. Reply Box 216329.

**WARWICKSHIRE LADY**, did you have lunch with Adrian at Old Parsonage, Oxford last year? Please contact him... Reply Box 216459.

**ATTRACTIVE, SLIM, EDUCATED** Australian lady, 39 would like to meet mature, solvent, English gentleman for possible LTR. lyn7710@hotmail.com

**ATTRACTIVE LIMITLESS GUY,** 40s longing for a wholesome, calm, passionate soul mate to explore a fun life together. Paul: 07773 993 318.

**BORED IN LONDON?** Successful, attractive professional guy, early 40s, looking to meet a sparky, gorgeous, female twentysomething graduate for some no strings fun. If you prefer Greene to Gucci and have a soft spot for dialectical dinners, nice wine and sunshine then what are you waiting for? Carpediem12005@yahoo.co.uk

**LONDON MALE, 36.** Into reading, music, film. Would like to meet anyone with a similar brain. A soul mate would be nice. Reply to peyead@hotmail.com

**SPEED DATING for GROWN-UPS!** Age 35+ with no upper age limit: London, West End venue, Wednesday, October 31. Also booking: Norwich, November 14; Bury St Edmunds, November 22; London, November 28; Brighton December 12. BOOK NOW online at www.kcdating.co.uk or telephone: 01728 635 064 and 07986 213 120. Plus, PRIVATE CLIENT MATCHMAKING: we only cater for discerning, mature professionals. KCDATING will introduce you to men and women that you really do want to meet.

**NICE CHAP,** young 54, dark hair, medium build, 5' 8". Desires easy-going female, friendly, petite-ish 40 plus, creative, sensuous, non smoker. Any left? Tel: 07970 398 867. S/West.

**BORING OLD FART:** Lost your phone number. Mine, 01789 244 948.

**PERVERT, 27/M,** Gosport, seeks female for unspeakable beastliness – possibly romance. Email: rubberjin@yahoo.co.uk

**HO, HO, HO!**

Do you want to spread the Festive Spirit?
Then advertise in the
**Eye Christmas** column.

*Please call Robert Angullia on 020 7240 9129*

*or visit: www.eyeadvertise.co.uk*

## Eye Christmas

**LUXURY SILK NIGHTWEAR at www.pinkcamellia.com for gifts that women want!**

**STUFF YOUR STOCKINGS @** www.gizmoandwidget.com A brilliant site for novelties!

**THE UK GIFT LIST REGISTRY** for the discerning. No annoying adverts. www.sickofsocks.co.uk

**HAVE A HUGX THIS CHRISTMAS! Pet lovers and their best best friends will love the new way to feed their pet. See the innovative design guaranteed to be the most imaginative and thoughtful present this year! Order early to ensure you get a hugx this Christmas. See us at: www.hugx.co.uk**

## Eye Charity

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS** pin badges and car stickers. Raising funds for SSAFA Forces. Help. www.militaryfigures.co.uk

## Eye Novelties

**TITLES-LORD, LADY ETC.** Tel/fax: 0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk

**SUBVERT SURVEILLANCE SOCIETY** with our unique range of t-shirts! www.watch-me.co.uk

**CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL** gift ideas for the discerning dog lover at www.bestofbreedgifts.co.uk

**HALLOWEEN TOYS,** gifts, decorations: hundreds of unusual gifts and novelties for all occasions. www.barmygifts.com

## Eye Escape

**TRIED IT WITH WATER YET? Clear air, pure water and sheer enjoyment. Colwall Park Hotel in the Malvern Hills – Restaurant of the Year and AA Courtesy & Care Awards. Gourmet breaks from £90.00 pppn 2+ nights**

**CAPE TOWN:** Two-bedroom apartment directly on the beach overlooking Table Mountain, five minutes to waterfront. www.capetownbeachapartment.com

**TRAILFINDERS TRAVEL VOUCHERS.** Unwanted competition prize. £8,000 of vouchers, will accept £6,000. jwsindub@hotmail.com

**ARTIST/WRITERS' RETREAT.** Small stone chalet, isolated but accessible location in Snowdonia. Equipped for self-catering. Minimum let one month. Tel: 01286 870 744.

## Eye Read

**AMAZINGLY ACCURATE** D.I.Y. Tarot Guide describes your character and relationships to confirm accuracy then hits you with your future. Spooky! www.tarotforyourfuture.com

**FREE CATALOGUE OF 4000 HALF PRICE BOOKS.** No fees, ONLY £3 p&p flat rate. Bibliophile Unit 5, Thomas Road Industrial Estate, London E14 7BN. Telephone: 020 7515 9222. www.bibliophilebooks.com

**ANCIENTEGYPTMAGAZINE.COM** Gift subscriptions available. UK's only Egyptology magazine. Six issues per year. Telephone: 0161 872 3319.

**EMMA CARLTON'S NEW CRIME NOVEL** "A Candidate For Killing" now available from on-line book stores. Visit www.acandidateforkilling.com

**SMALL PUBLISHER SELLS** notable books, yours too? www.infinityjunction.com

**MUST DEMOCRACY COLLAPSE?** Read Michael Shaughnessy's review of "473959" in www.ednews.org/articles/16987/1. Buy it from Blackwell's, Oxford.

**NOVEL ABOUT HUMAN** beings! Try The Gatekeeper. www.edgewaysbooks.com

## Eye Business

**PA AND VIRTUAL ASSISTANT HELP:** bookkeeping etc. Secretarial work. 020 8980 9091. info@paconfidential.org.uk

**ZERO-TAX AVAILABLE,** since Manx 2007 Budget: for full details telephone 01624 612777 or www.zero-tax.co.uk

**MEMORY CARDS:** Brand name, low prices, fast despatch. www.memorysaver.co.uk

**BECOME A REAL MOVIE MOGUL for just 25GBP! www.moviemogulfund.com**

## Eye Law

**FIND ANYBODY:** 0121 247 5550. Eye Services top.

**THE 'NO WIN – NO FEE' specialists: Professional Negligence (www.proneg.co.uk): Disputed Wills and Employment Law (www.sblaw.co.uk), Accident Claims (www.newdeal-fairdeal.co.uk). Free case assessment: 0808 155 6389.**

**YES,** you can now come direct to a barrister. Tel: 020 7833 9625.

**HAVE YOU BEEN LET DOWN BY YOUR SOLICITORS OR DOES YOUR SOLICITOR LACK THAT CUTTING EDGE?** Ahmud & Co. Solicitors, the lawyers that make a difference. www.ja-solicitors.com Telephone 020 8886 1111 or info@ja-solicitors.com No Legal Aid.

**PROTECT YOUR WEALTH FROM THE TAXMAN.** If you would rather leave assets to loved ones than the Treasury, contact Ed direct on 01342 306284 or email EWalter@bbc-law.co.uk www.bbc-law.co.uk

**DIVORCED/DIVORCING?** Protect your assets / income. We fight your corner. Thirty years' experience. Contact Charles Murison, Pellmans, 1 Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxford OX29 4TB. Tel: 01865 884 400.

**SUE YOUR DOCTOR?** Alternative quick and efficient solicitors: specialists in medical negligence, dentistry and GP claims; Member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers and Specialist Medical Referral Agency. Call Martin John Wallace, LLB Solicitor. Tel: 07789 010 265.

## Eye Sell

**OLD PERSIAN RUGS** – mostly £100-£3000. Not a shop just a shed. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. TN12 5JB. Telephone 01622 871 353.

**WE DON'T NEED PARTY WHIPS** to keep our prices in line. For expert advice on hi-fi, home cinema and flat screen TVs and the UK's cheapest prices... guaranteed, check out Richer Sounds! Call 0845 900 1230 for your nearest store or check out www.richersounds.com

**GOLD SIGNET RINGS,** hand-made, hand-engraved with your family crest. Stone set signet rings, gold cufflinks, all highest quality at reasonable prices. Telephone: 07939 225 249. sam_beaty@hotmail.com www.heraldicjewellery.com

**DRIVE PUSSY WILD!** Purrfect gift ideas. www.sparkipuss.com... for cat lovers

**STUCK FOR A GIFT?** Choose from our wide range of jewellery boxes for women, men and kids. WWW.boxofjewels.co.uk

**ELECTRIC BIKES.** No licence or insurance required. For a colour brochure telephone 02890 838 111 anytime.

**UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY. BEACH HUT** for sale, Whitstable, West Beach in Kent. Front row with open sea views. Annual rent, toilet facilities close by. Tel: 020 8771 2399.

**BROWSE GRAHAM RICHARDS** books via abebooks.com Bookstore option for science, philosophy etc.

**REGIMENTAL TIES,** badges, cufflinks, gifts etc. Hand-painted military figures. www.militaryfigures.co.uk

**BEAUTIFUL BEADED AFRICAN** ceramics: a gift with a difference. www.colours-of-africa.co.uk

**FREEHOLD HOMES IN BULGARIA. Viewing trips possible. £5000-£25000. Visit www.velikoproperty.com or call 07796 345863 / 01414 040051.**

## Eye Say

**MI5 SUED** in Florida Federal Court for assault / attempted homicide, http://www.mi5.com/legal/orlando/orlando.htm

**CAPITAINE. DON'T WORRY.** We all get tired of being sorry. Sous-fifre.

**FED UP WITH THE SMOKING BAN?** www.freedom2choose.info

## Eye Need

**WAR VETERAN.** STILL traumatised, cannot cope any longer. Urgently need finance to retain a semblance of normality for myself. S/C: 08-93-00. A/C: 04224989.

**DEVOTED FATHER OF SEVEN:** Wife committed adultery and then took the children away. Who can help a lone parent without children? S/C: 83-27-12. A/C: 00665508.

**URGENT HELP REQUESTED** with providing essential medicals in specialised hospital. S/C: 30-10-27. A/C: 76580507

**"THE WOOLIEST THING I EVER HEARD!"** Sane student with bonkers but brilliant PhD thesis needs funding for write up year. phdwriteup-fundme@yahoo.com S/C: 20-95-61. A/C: 60116165.

**JUST FOR FUN,** I'd like £200. Thanks! S/C: 12-60-60. A/C: 02423083. :)

**SINGLE FEMALE:** Help me sleep at night: S/C: 09-01-26. 45076429.

**REALITY TV 'STAR'** needs project: adventure, excitement, maybe money. http://myspace.com/castabout

**ESCAPE ROUTE REQUIRED** from eternal rat race. S/C: 40-18-37. A/C: 01352474.

**I'M DROWNING,** and so be it. But save me from breaking a good heart. Please help. S/C: 87-37-54. A/C: 74519760.

**FREE/CHEAP DIGS NEEDED.** Starting again after huge trauma / divorce. thesultanofsurf@hotmail.co.uk

**LADY NEEDS FINANCIAL HELP:** Anything legal. Telephone: 07943 903 043. Reply Box 218564.

**URGENT!** Need £36.40 to pay for this advert. Please help. S/C: 20-22-67. A/C: 90943002.

**DURHAM GRADUATE.** Failed entrepreneur; 30K in red. Please help. S/C: 40-47-45. A/C: 81155636.

**BRITISH HI-FI IS BEST!** Hi-fi design engineer, let down by bank. Three products under development: with good USP's. 5K needed to complete products. Help please! Telephone: 01473 281769. valfet.com

## Eye Service

**FIND ANYBODY,** debts recovered, evidence and case building. www.debtrecoveryuk.biz Telephone: 0121 247 5550 and 07773 788389.

**VAT PROBLEMS?** Taxman on your case? Speak to Eamon McNicholas. www.EamonMcNicholas.com

**SPEECH LOOMING? Relax, I'll write it for you! You're due to speak at a wedding / dinner / event. Don't waste time worrying. Lawrence: 07970 046 230 or www.greatspeechwriting.co.uk**

**PSST!... A PRIVATE MAILING ADDRESS.** Secure, confidential, prestigious mailing address. Choose from over 100 locations. Phone or email to check for mail – we can send it anywhere, any time. Great value starts from under £1 a day. Visit www.mbe.co.uk, call free on 0800 623 123 or email marketing@mbe.co.uk quoting ref PE3.

**www.OnlineSpyShop.co.uk Professional spy equipment. Catch out that cheating partner NOW!**

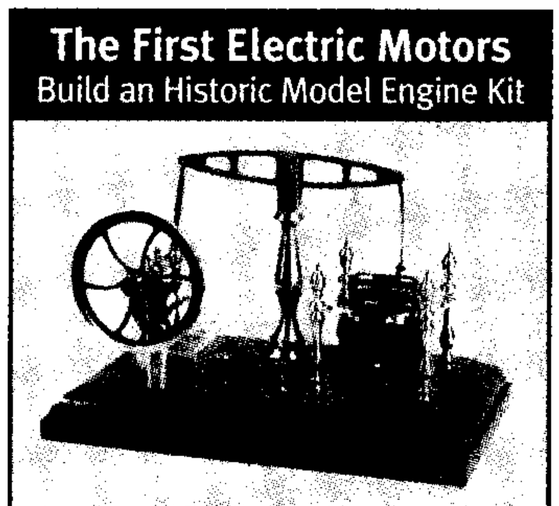
**CALL ME TODAY.** Television actor (ITV's Kingdom etc) has imaginative character and performance / ideas for promoting your party, product or service. Tel: 01508 471 485.

**SPECIALIST PRIVATE HEALTH COVER FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED.** If you're self-employed or a member of a profession and want to make large savings on quality comprehensive health cover, visit wpa.org.uk or call us on 0800 783 3 783 for a chat. WPA is regulated by the FSA.

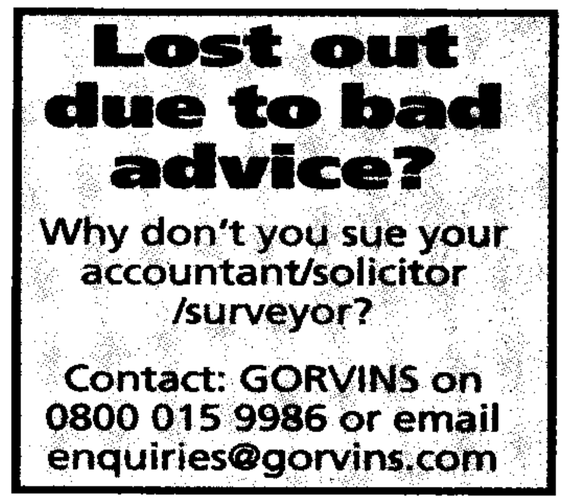
**PRIVATE LONDON CLINIC (Old Street) offers walk-in and postal sexual health services, online impotence treatment. Open evenings. 020 7490 8988. www.DrThom.com**

**SPEECHWRITING** (original). Professional radio comedy scriptwriter / speaker / presentations coach. Speaking tips blog: www.nickrthomas.co.uk Tel: 01202 318 829.

silk filled duvets
"The private jet of the duvet world"
(Caroline Roux - The Guardian )
Light, luxurious, breathable silk
Cool in summer, warm in winter
Naturally hypoallergenic and resistant to dust mites
100% pure silk sheets, pillow cases and duvet sets
Please contact us for a brochure
0845 095 6555
www.mandarina.co.uk
MANDARINA TEXTILES


The First Electric Motors
Build an Historic Model Engine Kit
A range of fully working engines
Based on original designs from 1836 – 1860, Electro-magnetic and working on batteries, these model kits represent how the early pioneers tried to use steam engine design for the world's first electric engines.
www.oldmodels.co.uk
01243 575403

**To place your classified advertisement please call Robert Angullia on 020 7240 9129**


Lost out due to bad advice?
Why don't you sue your accountant/solicitor /surveyor?
Contact: GORVINS on 0800 015 9986 or email enquiries@gorvins.com

**LINK INVESTIGATIONS:** the complete investigations agency. www.linkinvestigations.co.uk Telephone: 07733 325 488.

**GARDEN DESIGN:** Be the envy of your neighbours. www.e-gardendesign.com

**WRITING YOUR MEMOIRS /** autobiography? Experienced editorial support. Bridget Holding, telephone 01803 867340. bridgetholding@madasafish.com

**ripcaster.co.uk**

**The Quick and Easy way to convert your CD collection...**

**...we do it for you**

**0118 321 82 52 www.ripcaster.co.uk**

**Let us convert your CD collection into a Digital Music Library**

WPA

wpa.org.uk

**FREELANCE/SELF-EMPLOYED? CAN'T AFFORD TO BE ILL.**

You can make big savings on quality private health cover from WPA. Guaranteed service – all UK hospitals covered – history of over 100 years. WPA are specialists in health insurance for the self-employed and members of the professions. For more details visit **wpa.org.uk** or call **0800 783 3 783** for a chat.

*WPA is regulated by the FSA.*

**Wrinkle Free. Naturally.**

**FROWNIES®**

**No chemicals, no injections, no peels just a proven, mechanical process that smooths lines and creases while you sleep. Frownies patches hold facial skin and underlying muscle in a natural, relaxed position.**

**Forehead & Between Eyes**
***or* Corners of Eyes & Mouth**
**144 facial pads per box £18.50 inc. p&p**

**Sales: 0113 281 7711 www.frownies.co.uk**

**Dave Gorman's BBC show *Genius***

Those nice people at the BBC have asked Dave Gorman to make a TV version of his Radio 4 series, *Genius*. Dave is looking for your freaky schemes...

- **Bovril as a fizzy drink**
- **Designing summer clothing for Goths**
- **Tetris: The Movie**
- **You're Dumped Day – the antidote to Valentine's Day**

...then email your idea along with a contact phone number to:

**genius@bbc.co.uk** or visit the *Genius* link at:
**bbc.co.uk/radio4/comedy**

BBC

**COMEDY WRITER**

Ragdoll

An opportunity has arisen at Ragdoll, the specialist TV producer of character led programmes for children up to seven.

We are seeking a comedy writer able to contribute to a fantasy format for 6-7 year olds. This will appeal widely to children all over the contemporary world.

For a writer, young or old, not afraid of such a challenge there is huge potential.

To be considered, surprise us in no more than 500 words (with or without illustrations) with what you think a character led fantasy for children of around 7 years might be.

Please email Chris Wood at **talent@ragdoll.co.uk** or by post to:
Chris Wood, c/o Talent, Ragdoll Productions Ltd., Timothy's Bridge Road, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9NQ

**EUROBOFFOCKS!**

*Britain's relationship with 'Europe' 1957-2007*

*10 October 2007 - 20 January 2008*

Tues-Sat: 10.30-17.30
Sunday: 12-17.30
Adults £4
Concessions £3
Under 16s Free
Students Free

**The Cartoon Museum**
35 Little Russell Street
London WC1A 2HH
Tel: 020 7580 8155
info@cartoonmuseum.org
www.cartoonmuseum.org

**Don't fly in ignorance**

**www.aerotoxic.org**

**HO, HO, HO!**

Do you want to spread the Festive Spirit?
Then advertise in the
**Eye Christmas** column.
*Please call Robert Angullia*
*on 020 7240 9129*
*or visit: www.eyeadvertise.co.uk.*

*For less than £1 per day**

- Private and confidential
- Choose from over 400 locations
- 24 hour access*
- Mail forwarding
- Email or phone in mail check
- Fax handling
- Multiple address rental
- Registered address service

Call us now on 0800 623 123 for more information quoting 'EM3' or visit www.mbe.co.uk

MBE
MAIL BOXES ETC

**World's Smallest Helicopter**
**Infra-Red remote control - Indoors & Outdoors**

This is the "**Must Have**" toy of 2008. Not Just for the Kids! Ideal Stress Relief Executive Toy.

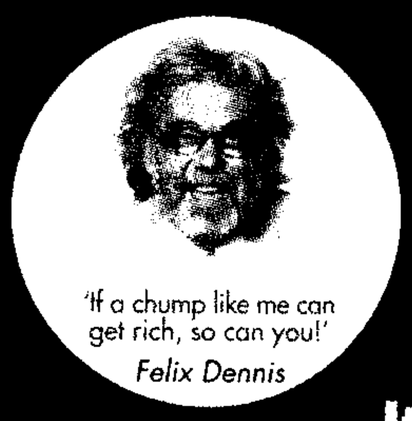
- Full Function Remote Control;
- Fly Indoors;
- Quick charge time;
- Chopper recharges from remote control;
- Duel prop, altitude / rotor speed control;
- Uses AA batteries INCLUDED;
- Ready to Fly Straight from the Box!
- Lightweight & Strong;
- 30m Range.

**Only £19.50 each or £35 for two - P&P £3 each (UK only)** **www.MicroChopper.co.uk**

Cheques & Postal Orders to: P Carter, Unit 4, 38 Lea Rd, Stockport. SK4 4JU. 07800 761 891

# 'THE BEST BOOK EVER WRITTEN ON HOW TO GET RICH'

*J. Disorobo, Amazon.com*




**This is a book about getting rich.**

**It's different from any other book on the subject because Felix Dennis made himself rich.**

**Very rich indeed.**

**And now he's going to show you how to do it!**

**PAPERBACK EDITION OUT NOW £7.99**

## THE CRITICS

**'If this book doesn't get you rich, nothing ever will'**
*Mail on Sunday*

**'Well-founded advice based on hard-won experience'**
*Financial Times*

**'Full of honest insights. I strongly recommend this book'**
*Sunday Telegraph*

**'Absorbing, provocative and huge fun'**
*The Times*

**'Wise,fearlessly frank and truly inspirational'**
*Mail on Sunday*

**'Startlingly frank and very funny'**
*Independent on Sunday*

**'Absolutely compelling'**
*IoM Examiner*

**'It's a classic'**
*Daily Wealth.com*

## THE READERS

**'An inspirational book'**
*Alan Bates, Amazon.co.uk*

**'Essential reading. A great work'**
*Tom Rubython, Amazon.co.uk*

**'A true masterpiece'**
*'The Wanderer', Amazon.com*

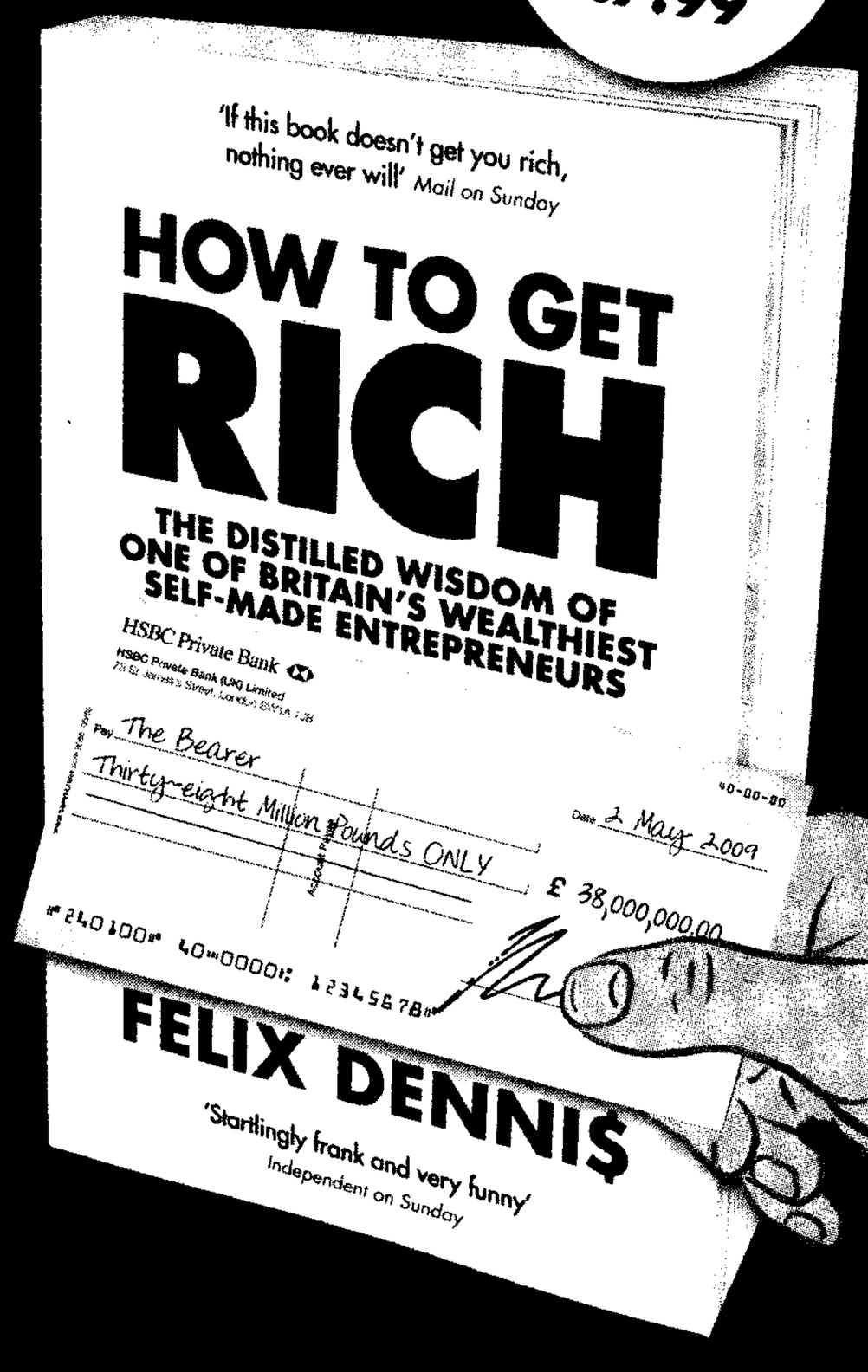
**'Buy it, devour it!'**
*Hasan Davulcu, Amazon.com*

**'The ultimate business guide'**
*Christopher Sanders, Amazon.co.uk*

**'I have read it twice and cannot put it down'**
*Ethan Patel, Amazon.co.uk*

**'A corker of a book. Do yourself a huge favour and read it'**
*NeilShearing.com*

**'If you only read one business book this year, make this one it'**
*Robert Kinney, Amazon.com*


'If this book doesn't get you rich, nothing ever will' Mail on Sunday
HOW TO GET RICH
THE DISTILLED WISDOM OF ONE OF BRITAIN'S WEALTHIEST SELF-MADE ENTREPRENEURS
HSBC Private Bank
Pay The Bearer
Thirty-eight Million Pounds ONLY
Date 2 May 2009
£ 38,000,000.00
FELIX DENNIS
'Startlingly frank and very funny'
Independent on Sunday

**AVAILABLE NOW AT BORDERS® AND ALL GOOD BOOKSTORES**

EBURY PRESS

**www.randomhouse.co.uk/howtogetrich**
**www.felixdennis.com**

# 'COMPULSIVE AND HUGELY ENTERTAINING'

*The Observer*

# The New S
## Performance. Scandinavian style.

**Scandinavian design is different. It always has a purpose and at Saab ours is to perform. Naturally, as you would expect from Saab, there is a range of powerful and efficient turbo charged engines, including our latest BioPower models. Whichever engine you select for the dramatically re-styled and aerodynamic body you really can enjoy the best of both worlds. For a brochure call 0845 300 9395, text 'design' to 84464 or visit saab.co.uk**

Saab 93

SAAB

move your mind™

9 770032 888129 41

OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR SAAB 9-3 SPORT SALOON RANGE IN MPG (LITRES/100KM): URBAN 16.7-39.2 (7.2-16.9), EXTRA URBAN 39.2-64.2 (4.4-7.2), COMBINED 26.2-52.3 (5.4-10.8). $CO_2$ EMISSIONS IN G/KM: 147-259.

Model shown is Aero 2.0T (210 bhp) £25,995 OTR. All prices correct at time of going to press.